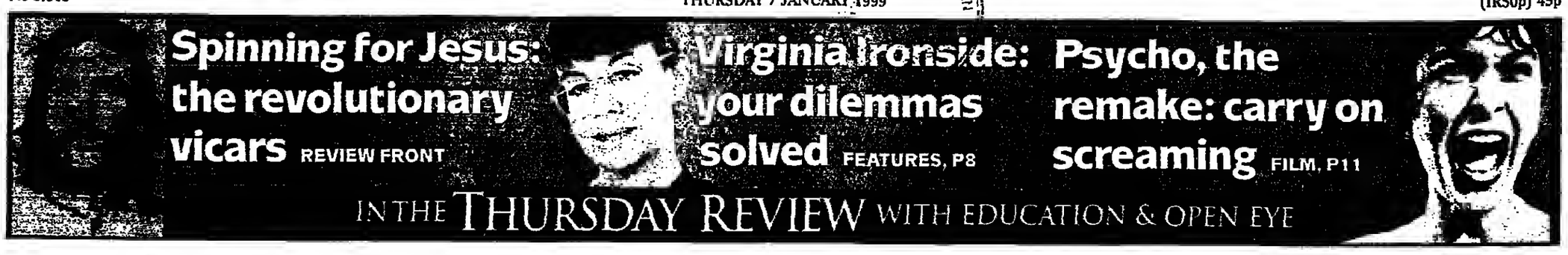
THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,813 THURSDAY 7 JANUARY 1999 (IR50p) 45p



UK may adopt Euro-inflation rules

THE GOVERNMENT is considering setting a new euro-inflation target for the Bank of England as a step on the way towards joining the single currency. A switch to the harmonised measure of inflation would pave the way for big cuts in British interest rates.

The new target, under active discussion in the Treasury, would be based on the harmonised price measure used by members of the European single currency. It would replace the existing target for UK retail price inflation. Although no decision has yet been taken, the *move could be announced* in the March Budget, when Gordon Brown has to confirm the inflation target. Alternatively, the Chancellor could introduce a target either in the national changeover plan for Britain's possible entry into the euro, due to be published later this month, or in his annual Mansion House speech.

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Adopting the same inflation target as the euro members is seen as an essential part of the preparation for eventual UK entry by Treasury officials. But *the decision will also be taken* as a clear signal of the Government's intention to join, making its timing sensitive.

If the euro-inflation measure is adopted, it would add to the pressure on the Bank of England to cut interest rates. UK inflation as measured by the "harmonised index of consumer prices" is just 1.4 per cent, well below the 2 per cent inflation target adopted by the European Central Bank (ECB).

The ECB has set a target which requires inflation on the *harmonised* measure to be below 2 per cent. The Government has set the Bank of England a target of 2.5 per cent for retail price inflation excluding mortgage interest payments, known as the RPIX, with up to 1 per cent deviation either way.

The harmonised price index was created after the Maastricht treaty so that European Union countries would have a directly comparable measure of inflation.

It is similar to the RPIX but includes goods such as computers whose price has been falling sharply, and is therefore lower.

The latest UK figures for inflation put the annual increase in the RPIX at 2.5 per cent, or just on target, in November, whereas the euro-inflation measure stood at just 1.4 per cent for the UK, or well below target. Interest rates in Britain are more than double the Euroland level, currently 3 per cent.

Even if the Bank does decide to cut rates from 6.25 per cent when the monthly meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee ends at noon today, the gap between the cost of loans in Britain and across the Channel will remain unusually large.

Hopes of the fourth reduction in the cost of loans in as many months sent share prices in London soaring yesterday. The FTSE-100 index jumped 191 points to 6,148.8, within a whisker of its July record of 6,179.

Many City experts believe the economy is weak enough for inflation to be no danger. Even so, switching targets could still pose the presentational problem of convincing the financial markets that the Government was not turning softer on inflation because it fears a recession.

The Bank of England has come under intense pressure from both sides of industry to cut interest rates further and faster. The Trades Union Congress weighed in yesterday with a call for a full percentage point reduction in rates today.

Separately, a survey of the service sector suggested that business has slowed so much that firms in the most buoyant part of the economy have started to axe jobs.

Only the computer industry is continuing to expand vigorously.

Labour backs European manifesto, page 2; Leading article, Review, page 3

Blair: 'My ministers are united'

TONY BLAIR sought yesterday to reassert his authority over his feuding Cabinet and to put his New Labour project back on course by reaffirming his strong personal alliance with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

As he started a three-day visit to South Africa, the Prime Minister quashed speculation about a change of direction following the resignation of the arch moderniser, Peter Mandelson, *from* the Cabinet. "The course is unchanged," he said.

Mr Blair said he had already cleared the air with cabinet colleagues and did not plan to raise the recent in-fighting at next week's cabinet meeting. "As far as I am concerned, it is over. These things happen but Government goes on."

However, Mr Blair is facing *growing demands from the Cabinet* for a more collective style of decision-making. Some ministers complain that he allows little debate at the weekly session, because decisions have already been taken by Downing Street and individual ministers.

"This is a good moment for a change of gear," one cabinet minister said yesterday. "After 18 months... we should now be more involved in the strategic decisions."

Ministers also complain that Mr Brown allows little input into economic policy-making.

Yesterday, Mr Blair praised Mr Brown and moved to cement their partnership after faction-fighting was blamed for the decision by Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary, to leave his job.

"Gordon's work was crucial to the creation of New Labour and winning the election. We *have always worked as a team* and will always work as a team... this partnership is built to last," Mr Blair said. He insisted that he and Mr Brown were "closer than any chancellor and prime minister in living memory" and that Labour was "more ideologically united than at any time in its history".

BY COLIN BROWN
in Pretoria
and ANDREW GRICE

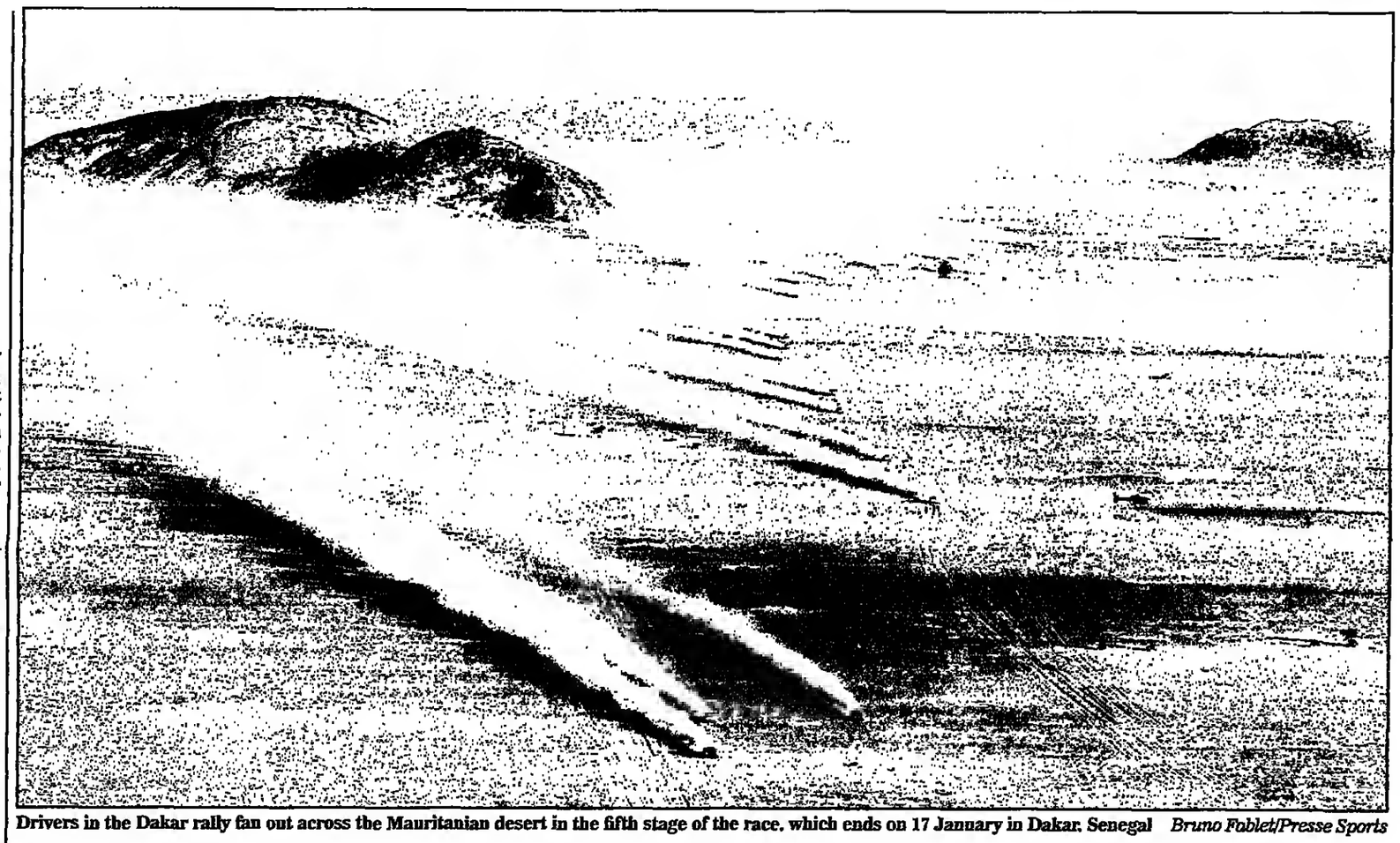
Mr Blair insisted that his party's links with the Liberal Democrats would deepen, dashing the hopes of some Labour MPs following the departure of Mr Mandelson, a keen advocate of co-operation. "We are working closer and that will stay," he said.

Mr Blair denied any rift between him and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, following Mr Prescott's interview in *The Independent* last week in which he called for the Government to get away from spin-doctoring and back to "substance".

Mr Blair made it clear there would be no return to the "tax and spend" policies, despite Mr Prescott's declaration that the Government was now using public spending "to uphold the economy in the traditional Keynesian way". But he was said to be "relaxed" about Mr Prescott's remarks. Yesterday Mr Prescott dismissed as "nonsense" the idea that he had formed a pact with Mr Brown.

Mr Blair said: "I am not denying it has been a difficult week or two but these things happen. The important thing is that the Government stays focused on the things that really matter to people."

Leading article
***Review*, page 3**



Drivers in the Dakar rally fan out across the Mauritanian desert in the fifth stage of the race, which ends on 17 January in Dakar, Senegal *Bruno Fablet/Presse Sports*

Five-term year for schools

THE TRADITIONAL school year could be swept away for tens of thousands of schoolchildren, it emerged last night. The change, under proposals drawn up by local authority leaders, would see autumn, spring and summer terms replaced by a five-term year

Newham in east London could be the first borough to introduce the new terms, which would be in place by September next year if parents and teachers agree. Under the Newham scheme, the six-week summer holiday would be cut to four. Children would also have four two-week holidays in October, December, March and May.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Ian Harrison, Newham's director of education, said: "We agree with the Government that there appear to be certain advantages with a five-term year. The autumn term is ex*tremely long at the moment* and the summer break is very big, which may be good for staff but may not be so good for pupils."

*Croydon council in south*west London will put similar proposals to parents next term, and could introduce the reform in 2001. Officials at Thurrock council in Essex are also considering the change.

Education officials said equal-length terms would cut truancy, raise standards and help stop parents taking term*time holidays.*

Teachers' unions condemned the proposals and parents warned they may prove *unworkable. Margaret Morris*sey, spokeswoman for the National Association of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "A lot of working parents would welcome more evenly spread holidays, but people do like the long summer break. There could also be very great problems for people who need to make childcare *arrangements.*"

UN arms inspection team 'spied for US'

THE FUTURE of Unscom, the United Nations disarmament mission in Iraq, was cast in fresh doubt last night after publication of allegations that intelligence it gathered on the security apparatus surrounding Saddam Hussein was secretly conveyed to the US.

The reports, in US papers, said evidence that it had become a surrogate spy agency for Washington had been presented *to the Kofi Annan, UN* Secretary-General. The claims triggered a crisis at UN headquarters, where a divided Security Council is struggling to *formulate a new policy on Iraq* since last month's bombardment by the US and Britain.

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Behind the furore are suspicions that aides to the Secretary-General if not Mr Annan himself may wish to promote the claims to weaken Unscom *and seek its replacement by a* less aggressive mechanism while ousting its head, Richard Butler. Relations between Mr Annan and Mr Butler have *been at rock bottom since* the air attacks.

A spokesman confirmed Mr Annan approached Mr Butler about rumours of the leaks; Mr Butler reportedly denied it. While Unscom seeks assistance from countries including *Britain, Israel and the US in its* efforts to monitor activities in Iraq, it would be illegal for it to share any information it gathers with those governments.

Responding to the reports, in the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe*, the UN spokesman denied the UN had evidence of wrongdoing. Mr Butler said the reports were unfounded: "Have we facilitated spying? Are we spies? Ab*solutely not," he told reporters.*

Since 1995 Unscom has accepted technical help including the loan of American U-2 planes to eavesdrop on Iraq and *its security operations. The* question now is whether any of the information was passed to the US to help it in its efforts in Iraq to destabilise the regime.

Mr Butler said Unscom had only ever sought help with a view to ridding Iraq of its pro*hibited weapons.* "We have never accepted or used any of that assistance for any other purpose, not for any member-state's national purposes, but *only for our purposes for seek*ing to bring about the disarmament of Iraq."

Leading article, Review, page 3

INSIDE THIS SECTION

INSIDE THE REVIEW

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia	6.90 A$	Canada	3.50 C$	Denmark	18.00 DKr	Germany	4.50 DM	Hungary	295 forint	Luxembourg	60.00 LFr	Norway	26.00 NKr	Spain	325 Pta	Turkey	1,250,000 lira
Austria	40.00 Sch	Cyprus	1.20 C£	Finland	19.00 FM	Gibraltar	£0.80	Israel	12.00 Shk	Malta	0.65c	Portugal	350 Es	Sweden	23.00 SKr	USA	$3.50
Belgium	90 BFr	Czech Republic	112 K	France	16.00 FFr	Greece	700 Dr	Italy	5,000 L	Netherlands	S.50 guilder	Singapore	$S8.55	Switzerland	5.00 SFr		

Saatchi tells Tories: Don't mock Labour

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

MAURICE SAATCHI, the Tory advertising guru, has told William Hague to stop mocking Tony Blair's much-criticised "third way" strategy and warned that it could be a huge vote-winner for Labour.

The Tory peer, a central figure in Conservative campaigns at the last five general elections, paid tribute to Mr Blair's skilful rebranding of New Labour and warned that his ultimate goal is to "destroy us completely".

In a pamphlet to be published today by the Bow Group, Lord Saatchi suggested that under Mr Hague the Tories had not yet developed a strategy to bring them back to power.

"The Labour Party has a plan, and we must have one too if we are to fight them successfully," he said. "If we attempt to muddle along, or to wait on events, or to be obsessed with where we went wrong last time, we will lose."

Mr Hague has poured scorn on Mr Blair's adoption of a "third way" between old-style socialism and traditional Conservatism. The Tory leader has said Labour is trying to have it "every way" and that the "third way" means "third rate".

But Lord Saatchi said Mr Blair's idea could be "every voter's dream". By finding a new middle way, Labour could consign the Tories "to the same intellectual dustbin of history as communism and Marxism".

He said: "Some Tory critics say the 'third way' is an empty phrase. Don't listen to them. They are the same Tories who dismissed Labour as an empty phrase.

"We were left flat-footed by the launch of New Labour; uncertain whether to criticise it for being empty or dangerous; a con-trick or candyfloss; a copy of us, or what."

Admiring Mr Blair's simplistic slogan, he said Old Labour was portrayed as bad and dangerous, so New Labour must be good and safe. "We lost our strategic bearings when Labour convinced the public its copying of our economics was a sincere conversion." Lord Saatchi admitted the Tories were slow to face the fact that Labour had turned from a Marxist-socialist party into a social democratic one.

"Maybe Labour's third way is just stealing our clothes again. But I assure you it intends to polish it up until it shines and relaunch 'the middle of the road' and 'the art of the possible' as something contemporary, exciting, idealistic."

Lord Saatchi argues that the Tories need a "strategic sense" more than ever, and must avoid the mistakes of previous generations of Conservatives who "seemed to abhor a strategy more than a vacuum".

He added that the Tories' fate remained in their own hands, and that they should not merely sit back to wait for Labour to lose an election.

Insisting that the Government was now starting to make mistakes, he said: "If we develop new ideas and put New Labour under pressure, we can create weaknesses in their organisation and start to win."

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott (left) pledged to recycle newspapers, bottles and cans to help protect the planet. He made a start by putting the House of Commons Christmas tree through the chipper in New Palace Yard, Westminster PA

Wine revives brain cells

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

A CHEMICAL in wine boosts the activity of an enzyme that stimulates and regenerates brain cells up to seven-fold, scientists have discovered.

The chemical, resveratrol, is produced by vines to fight infection and is found in grapes and wine.

Alberto Bertelli and colleagues at the Human Anatomy Institute at the University of Milan, Italy, tested resveratrol on human neural cells in the laboratory. They found that it made them grow small extensions through which they could connect with neighbouring cells, the *New Scientist* magazine reported.

The discovery is seen as important since contacts between neural cells are broken in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. "By daily reinforcing these contacts, we can prevent neurodegeneration," said Mr Bertelli.

French scientists published a paper last year which showed that people who drank moderate amounts of wine daily were less likely to develop neurodegenerative diseases.

Channel 4 faces High Court over 'faked' child prostitution

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

CHANNEL 4 is preparing for a High Court battle with Nottingham City Council over allegations it induced youngsters in council care to break the law and fake homelessness and prostitution for a forthcoming documentary. The channel claims the council is engaged in "crude censorship".

The council is seeking an injunction to stop the channel screening sections of the film, *Staying Lost*, made in Nottingham last year, and to stop the production company responsible, October Films, contacting the children it filmed.

The council also wants October Films to hand over or destroy its footage of the children.

Channel 4 denies any scenes in the film have been faked and says it will stand by the programme-makers and defend them in court.

The legal action follows a series of scandals last year when television producers were caught faking documentary scenes. Carlton Television was fined £2m in December because a producer faked parts of its programme, *The Connection*.

Nottingham Council first complained about October Films in August when it claimed it had close-circuit camera footage of the film makers giving children blankets so they could pretend to be begging in the city centre. The council also claimed a 15-year-old girl had been told she would be "working" for the film crew for a year, and that they induced her to pose as a prostitute.

"If October Films will not be persuaded through dialogue that they are interfering with and undermining our efforts to care for and bring up vulnerable children, then we have no choice but to seek the support of the court to force them to cease their activities in Nottingham," said Graham Chapman, the leader of Nottingham City Council, yesterday.

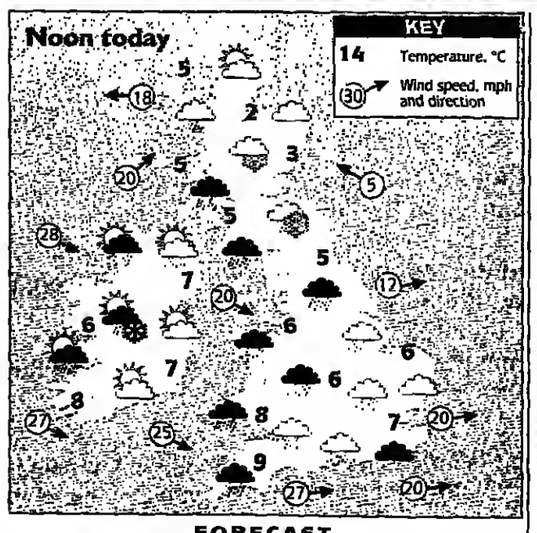
The action was backed by Nottinghamshire Police. Deputy Chief Constable Tom Williamson said: "We received a number of reports into the activities of October Films which have caused us a great deal of concern. This would suggest that they had stepped outside their own stated aims and are not just filming what is occurring but interfering in the care of young people."

Channel 4 has accused Nottingham council of a "crude attempt to stop us showing an important film".

It said: "The public have the right to see this series. Channel 4 will defend robustly any proceedings issued by the council in court."

The film is being made by Tom Roberts, the highly respected producer who won a Royal Television Society award for the *Dispatches* programme "Mother Russia's Children".

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation East and south-east England will start mostly dry and bright, but will soon cloud over with rain spreading from the west this afternoon. Wales and western England will be overcast with rain soon arriving. This afternoon will be brighter but still rather showery. Northern Ireland will be also have a wet morning, with sunny spells and blustery showers this afternoon. Scotland will start largely dry and cold at first. Rain and hill-snow will then spread to all but the far north-east.

SE England, London, E Anglia, E & NE England: Some early sunny spells, but clouding over with rain spreading from the west this afternoon. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Cent S England, Channel Is, Midlands, Cent N England: A dry start but soon turning cloudy with outbreaks of rain, the rain turning more showery later this afternoon. A moderate to fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Cloudy and wet, with snow over the mountains at first followed by showers this afternoon. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

N Ireland: Rain this morning will move away to leave a mix of sunny spells and blustery showers this afternoon. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N Isles: Some early showers, wintry on hills. Cold but becoming mostly dry and bright. A light to moderate east to north-easterly wind. Max temp 2-5C (36-41F).

SW, SE & NW Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, W Isles: A dry, cold start with early sunshine. Rain spreading north and east with snow on the highlands. A fresh west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

OUTLOOK

Tomorrow will be breezy with showers, many of these will turn wintry in the north as it turns colder. Saturday will be colder with sleet and snow in northern and eastern parts, with a frosty night. The cold snap will continue on Sunday.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on now M11 link road. Until 31st December.
Cambridgeshire A10 between Foxton and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Shepreth Mill. Until 14th February.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.
Monmouthshire: A449 between Usk A472 and M4 J24. Roadworks. Until 11th January.
Lancashire: M6 Between J27 Standish and J28 Leyland. Roadworks; contraflow and a 50mph speed limit either side of Charnock Richard Services. Until 15th February.
Greater Manchester: A57. Narrow lanes Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink construction work. Until 28th February.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.
Dumfries and Galloway: A74 between Beattock and J18 Annandale. Major roadworks, until 31st January.
AA Roadwatch: Call **0336 401777** for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	4.16pm	to	8.43am
Birmingham	4.11pm	to	8.16am
Bristol	4.19pm	to	8.14am
Glasgow	4.02pm	to	8.44am
London	4.09pm	to	8.04am
Manchester	4.07pm	to	8.23am
Newcastle	3.56pm	to	8.28am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	10.33	12.2	10.57	11.6
Cork	9.03	4.2	9.21	4.1
Devonport	9.00	5.1	9.24	4.7
Dover	2.06	6.5	2.28	6.1
Dun Laoghaire	2.55	3.8	3.12	4.0
Falmouth	8.31	4.9	8.55	4.5
Greenock	4.00	3.3	3.49	3.7
Harwich	2.53	3.8	3.20	3.7
Holyhead	1.38	5.1	1.52	5.3
Hull (Albert Dk)	9.45	8.0	9.51	8.3
Kings Lynn	9.51	5.9	9.51	6.0
Leith	6.07	5.2	6.28	5.2
Liverpool	2.24	8.7	2.41	8.8
Milford Haven	9.37	6.4	10.00	6.0
Newquay	8.32	6.5	8.56	8.1
Portland	10.07	1.9	10.35	1.6
Portsmouth	2.36	4.5	2.42	4.3
Pwllheli	11.32	4.5	11.57	4.1
Scarborough	7.37	5.3	7.42	5.5
Wick	2.40	3.2	2.50	3.4

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

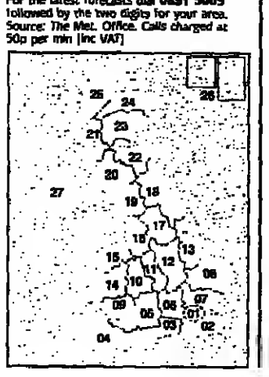
	NO_2	SO_2
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 08.05
Sun sets: 16.09
Moon rises: 22.37
Moon sets: 10.58
Last quarter: Jan 9

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)



YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Gravesend 16C (61F)
Coldest (day): Tulloch Bridge 4C (39F)
Wettest: Capel Curig 1.0 ins
Sunniest: Battle 4.9 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Wednesday

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	°F
Aberdeen	0	0.06	5	41
Anglesey	0	0.36	11	52
Aviemore	0	0.22	5	41
Belfast	0	0.55	7	45
Birmingham	0.9	0.01	13	55
Bournemouth	4.1	0.04	12	54
Bristol	0	0.01	14	57
Buxton	0	0.16	12	54
Cardiff	0	0.05	14	57
Clacton	4.2	0	10	50
Cromer	0.4	0.01	13	55
Edinburgh	0	0.32	5	41
Exmouth	1.0	0.13	13	55
Fishguard	0	0.20	12	54
Folkestone	6.1	0.04	12	54
Glasgow	0	0.31	5	41
Hastings	6.2	0.10	12	54
Hove	3.5	0.09	11	52
Isle-of-man	0	0.78	12	54
Isle-of-wight	-	0.16	13	55
Jersey	7.3	0.01	12	54
Kendal	0	1.42	10	50
Leeds	0	0.07	14	57
Lerwick	0	0.05	6	43
Littlehampton	4.9	0.20	13	55
London	2.1	0.01	14	57
Lowestoft	0.3	0	13	55
Manchester	0	0.13	13	55
Margate	1.9	0.01	13	55
Morecambe	0	0.98	13	55
Newcastle	0	0.25	13	55
Newquay	0.1	0.06	13	55
Norwich	2.0	0.08	14	57
Oxford	0.9	0.08	13	55
Ross-on-wye	0	0.13	13	55
Salcombe	-	-	-	-
Scarborough	0	0.16	12	54
Shrewsbury	0	0.06	14	57
Southend	-	-	-	-
Southport	-	0.15	-	-
Stornoway	0	0.04	7	45
Swanage	4.7	0.06	12	54
Tenby	0	0.13	12	54
Torquay	0.8	0.10	15	59
Weston-s-mare	-	-	-	-
Weymouth	4.4	0.02	12	54

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Tuesday:
Information by PA WeatherCentre

RAIN OR SHINE...

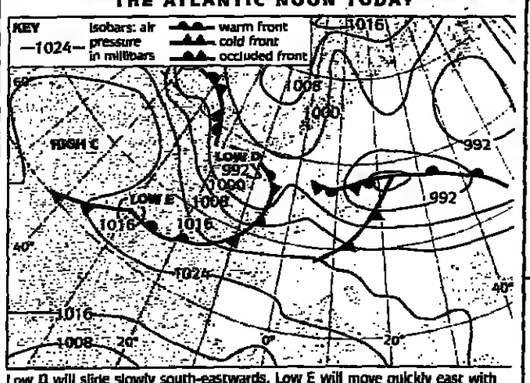
UNSEASONABLE weather over southern England yesterday brought London its warmest January day since records began more than 150 years ago. In the afternoon the temperature on the roof of the London Weather Centre reached 15.7 degrees C – just over 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

The mild weather has been caused by warm air from south-westerly regions such as the Azores flooding into Britain behind a cold front.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



Low D will slide slowly south-eastwards. Low E will move quickly east with little further development. High C will intensify and drift eastwards.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

c,cloudy; d,drizzle; f,fair; fg,fog; h,hail; hz,haze; m,mist; r,rain; s,sunny; sh,showers; sl,sleet; sn,snow; ss,sandstorm; th,thunder. Most recent available figure, noon local time.

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Adelaide	s	38	100	Chicago	c	-19	-2	La Paz	c	13	55	Prague	f	12	54
Algiers	s	22	72	Christchurch	f	23	73	Lagos	c	31	88	Quebec	f	-18	0
Alicante	s	18	64	Cologne	c	14	57	Lima	f	23	73	Reykjavik	s	1	34
Amsterdam	c	12	54	Copenhagen	c	7	45	Lisbon	s	12	54	Rhodes	t	16	61
Anchorage	c	-16	3	Corfu	s	15	59	Los Angeles	f	23	73	Rio de Jan	c	31	88
Ankara	s	7	45	Crete	r	14	57	Madrid	s	12	54	Riyadh	g	20	68
Athens	f	13	55	Dakar	f	22	72	Majorca	s	18	64	Rome	f	14	57
Atlanta	s	-4	25	Dallas	c	8	46	Malaga	s	18	64	San Fran	c	9	48
Auckland	f	24	75	Darwin	c	29	84	Malta	s	15	59	Santiago	s	27	81
Bahrain	f	23	73	Dehli	f	23	73	Manila	c	27	81	Seoul	r	5	41
Bangkok	f	31	88	Edmonton	sn	-14	7	Mecca	s	32	90	Seychelles	c	30	86
Barbados	f	29	84	Faro	s	18	64	Melbourne	c	24	75	Shanghai	m	13	55
Barcelona	s	13	55	Florence	s	9	48	Mexico City	s	14	57	Singapore	c	31	88
Beirut	f	18	64	Frankfurt	c	8	46	Miami	c	10	50	St Pet'burg	c	-1	30
Belgrade	m	9	48	Funchal	f	16	61	Milan	f	6	43	Stockholm	r	1	34
Berlin	c	11	52	Geneva	fg	5	41	Mombasa	c	31	88	Sydney	s	29	84
Bermuda	m	24	75	Gibraltar	s	17	63	Montreal	s	-16	3	Taipei	f	22	72
Biarritz	s	23	73	Hanoi	f	22	72	Moscow	r	2	36	Tel Aviv	c	18	64
Bogota	f	19	66	Harare	r	21	70	Munich	s	7	45	Tenerife	f	19	66
Bombay	f	26	79	Helsinki	c	0	32	Nairobi	t	26	79	Tokyo	c	9	48
Bordeaux	s	14	57	Hong Kong	s	20	68	Naples	s	16	61	Toronto	s	-9	16
Boston	c	-4	25	Honolulu	c	24	75	Nassau	c	20	68	Tunis	s	16	61
Brisbane	f	27	81	Istanbul	c	6	43	New Delhi	r	14	57	Ulan Ude	c	-21	-6
Brussels	f	13	55	Jakarta	th	27	81	New Orleans	s	6	43	Valencia	c	11	52
Bucharest	m	1	34	Jeddah	s	31	88	New York	s	-4	25	Vancouver	c	7	45
Budapest	fg	1	34	Jerusalem	c	15	59	Nice	s	15	59	Venice	fg	2	36
Buenos Aires	f	22	72	Johannesburg	c	23	73	Nicosia	c	18	64	Vienna	fg	1	34
Cairo	s	18	64	Karachi	s	21	70	Oslo	sn	-3	27	Warsaw	c	11	52
Calgary	sn	-3	27	Kathmandu	f	15	59	Paris	s	13	55	Washington	s	-4	25
Cape Town	s	22	72	Kiev	dr	3	37	Peking	s	4	39	Wellington	f	23	73
Caracas	f	29	84	Kingston	f	31	88	Perth	c	23	73	Zagreb	•		
Casablanca	s	16	61	Kuala Lumpur	c	28	82	Port Stanley	s	12	54	Zurich	m	3	37

Labour stands on pro-euro platform

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

LABOUR IS to sign up to a European election manifesto praising the single currency, calling for more economic co-ordination and job creation across the continent and arguing for greater efforts to combat "harmful" tax competition.

A draft of the document, due to be finalised at a meeting in Brussels today, will commit Tony Blair to fighting this summer's elections on its most pro-European platform ever.

The draft manifesto, compiled for the Party of European Socialists of which Labour is a member, calls for "closer economic co-ordination aimed at ensuring sustainable growth and high levels of employment".

It lavishes praise on the euro which, it says, will protect the continent from currency speculation, "allow for lower interest rates and contribute to a new and more stable financial world system".

On the thorny issue of tax policy, the document concludes that the euro means "better co-ordination to prevent harmful tax competition in the form of unfair tax breaks and hidden subsidies".

Although amendments will be debated at today's meeting, Labour is certain to endorse the final document because Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, has been instrumental in its drafting.

Gift of guns puts Olympics chief in firing line on corruption claim

BY JOHN DAVISON

THE GROWING scandal surrounding alleged corruption among members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday produced the first evidence that Juan Antonio Samaranch, its president, has not been immune to expensive gifts from those competing to stage the games.

Mr Samaranch admitted that he had received an inscribed pistol and a rifle on two separate visits to Salt Lake City, Utah, shortly before the American city secured the bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The guns, said to be worth a total of around $2,000, appear to be in clear contravention of IOC guidelines, which ban officials from accepting any gift worth more than $150. Mr Samaranch has been consistently outspoken in condemning any corruption within the process since wider allegations emerged, and has repeatedly pledged to clean up the IOC act.

He recently said that a new selection procedure, which downgraded the role of the full 115-member committee, may have to be the outcome of the present scandal. Even after yesterday's admission, in response to press reports, he seemed unperturbed.

"I see no problem whatsoever since the important gifts I get will be placed in the Olympic Museum," he said.

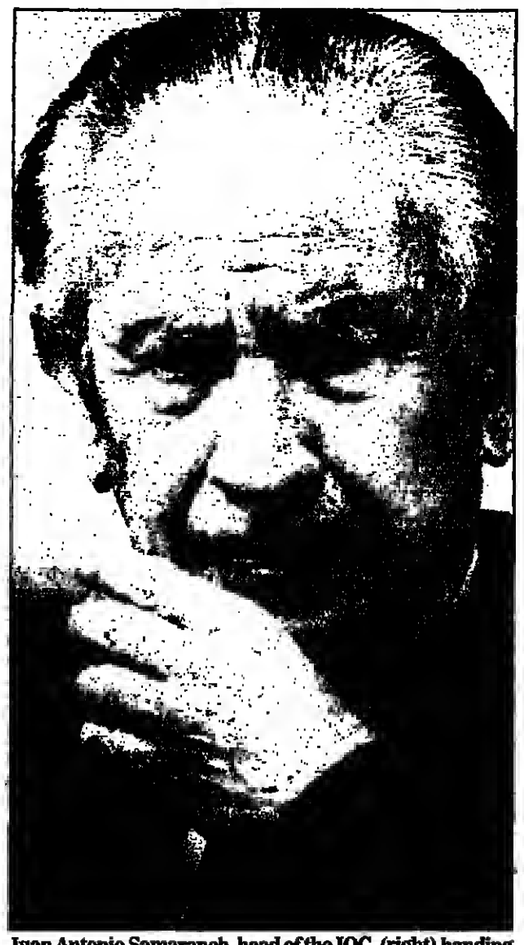
The broader picture, which has been steadily taking shape over the past month, involves committee members receiving gifts in return for their vital votes when lucrative decisions are taken on where to stage Olympic competitions.

With the Olympic show estimated to generate $10bn during each four-year cycle, it is not hard to see why temptation arises. The Salt Lake City bid alone is currently the subject of four different investigations. College and athletic scholarships for the relatives of members, free medical insurance and other gifts are all said to have been used to try and clinch that particular race.

Whatever the outcome of the various investigations – which are being carried out by, among others, the FBI and the former US senator George Mitchell, fresh from his role in the Northern Ireland peace process – the games will still go ahead in Utah for practical reasons.

Some cities that lost out, however, are now demanding compensation for the money they fruitlessly spent.

The whole issue is being seen as the worst scandal in the 104-year history of the modern Olympic movement.



Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the IOC, (right) handing the Olympic flag to the Mayor of Salt Lake City during the closing ceremony of the Nagano games last February

Mr Samaranch, ever the sporting statesman, was yesterday in Zurich for a meeting with Fifa president Sepp Blatter to discuss Mr Blatter's plan to stage the World Cup every two years instead of four.

Asked about gifts to other committee members, he would only refer to the IOC's own investigation. "The report will be presented to the executive committee on 24 January and possibly we have concrete cases of inappropriate behaviour," he said. "If this is proved true, than we will propose expulsion of these people."

Clearly, he did not think that he would be among that number. Concerns about just how bids are decided have been growing for some years. Britain has seen attempts to stage the summer Olympics in both Birmingham and Manchester falter amid suspicions that they were not competing on a level playing field. But last month Marc Holder, a Swiss lawyer and member of the IOC, claimed extortion and corruption had played its part in a number of previous bids.

He estimated that between 5 and 7 per cent of the committee are open to bribery.

Salt Lake City was included in his allegations, after officials there admitted they had operated a $400,000 scholarship fund for 13 student athletes, six of whom were relatives of IOC members.

Apart from the activities of local officials in offering such favours, the investigations are centring on representatives of African countries on the committee, and the activities of agents who hover in the background offering to peddle influence. One such agent is Mahmoud el-Farnawani, who has said that in 1995 he delivered IOC Arab votes for Salt Lake City in return for $58,000. "I signed a contract with Salt Lake City and assured them of the votes," Mr Farnawani said.

Even the mayor of the city has admitted that the son of an IOC member from Swaziland was given an internship with one of the city's departments while attending the University of Utah. It has also been alleged that another delegate was one of the three African members who received free medical care – worth a total of $28,000 – from the company that has become the health care provider for the 2002 games.

The fact that Mr Samaranch himself has now become marginally embroiled was given extra significance by statements from an Italian committee member, who said he sent a letter to Mr Samaranch last May outlining precise allegations of inducements. Far from investigating this, the Italian member said, the IOC president did not even respond.

The IOC's own investigation is being headed by Richard Pound, a member from Canada and a possible successor to Mr Samaranch, who is due to stand down in two years' time. This week he seemed very sure that at least some of the allegations were standing up.

"The IOC itself must show that it subscribes to the highest levels of ethical conduct," he said. "We will show that some of our members did not maintain those high standards. We have a few bad apples and we will get rid of them."

With all the various other investigators due to produce their own findings soon, the committee will have little choice. Mr Mitchell, chairman of the US Olympic Committee's ethics division, expects to report by the end of February.

Ironically, though the very pull of money that seems to have brought this particular global dream to its knees is also providing the impetus for sorting the matter out. Corporate sponsors, who regularly pitch $100m for the honour of having their name associated with the Olympic image, exercise more muscle than mere moral dilemmas ever could.

Among the mightiest are Coca-Cola, whose representatives recently spoke in most uncompromising terms about what they expect the IOC to do. "They have assured us they will take swift and decisive action, and we will monitor them to ensure that," said a Coca-Cola spokesman. For an organisation that is supposed to represent a vision of fair play for the whole of humanity, anything less than that would surely lead to its terminal decline.

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 7 January 1999

'Cot deaths' may have been murders

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

BABIES WHO have died at the hands of their parents have been wrongly identified as victims of cot death, the country's leading medical expert on child abuse says today.

Professor Sir Roy Meadow, a specialist at St James University Hospital, Leeds, says doctors and coroners have in some cases overlooked signs of bleeding, broken bones and foreign bodies blocking the airway because they were under pressure to resolve unexplained cases swiftly and without controversy. In doing so, they may have helped parents get away with murder.

Sir Roy, a former president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, was the first person to describe Munchausen syndrome by proxy, the condition in which parents, usually mothers, induce illnesses in their children requiring extensive investigation as a way of gaining attention for themselves. Since the Sixties, when he published his first paper on the syndrome in *The Lancet*, he has become a world authority and a widely respected expert on child abuse.

Writing in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, Sir Roy returns to the emotive issue of the causes of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Sids) which claims more than 400 lives a year. He says the diagnosis of Sids "has been used at times as a pathological diagnosis to evade awkward truths" and should be revised or abandoned.

His view is based on a study of the records of 81 children judged by criminal and family courts to have been killed by their parents. In 49 cases, the children had initially been certified as dying from Sids and a further 29 were classified as dying from other natural causes. The mother was responsible for the death – usually smothering – in more than 80 per cent of cases. In 24 of the families, more than one child had died and in five of them, three children had died.

Up to 27 children were found with blood in the mouth, nose, or on the face, and 10 had unusual bruises on the face. Some had foreign objects – coins or balls of paper – in their airways or intestines. These were explained away on the basis that the infant had grasped or eaten the object even though they were too young for that to have been possible.

Five children were categorised as cot-death victims aged more than a year old – six months older than the usual upper limit for Sids. Nearly half the children had been discharged from hospital within the week preceding their death after being admitted for an "unusual or unexplained event". Sir Roy wrote: "Currently many paediatric units are failing to heed warning signs and failing to protect some very vulnerable children."

Although the number of Sids cases in Britain a year had fallen below 400, the acceptance of a situation in which so many children died of unknown causes was a "national scandal", Sir Roy said. "If one out of every 1,000 21-year-olds died suddenly and unexpectedly without an identifiable cause there would be a national outcry."

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID) said Sir Roy's paper covered cases he was personally involved in and should not be viewed as a representative study. It had always accepted that "a small number" of cot deaths may be unnatural.

It added: "It would be unfair to exacerbate the pain of cot-death parents by casting general suspicion on their tragedy."

The foundation agreed with Sir Roy that there should be a comprehensive investigation of all unexpected infant deaths.

Flu cases up by 83 per cent in a week

BY LOUISE JURY AND JEREMY LAURANCE

THE NUMBER of people with flu rose by 83 per cent last week, piling pressure on hospitals and causing misery to thousands. Doctors said all intensive-care beds were full, as casualty units and ambulance services braced themselves for more admissions.

Around 97,000 people in England and Wales have flu, compared with 53,000 in Christmas week, according to the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), which said the rate of infection had risen from 102 cases per 100,000 to 185 cases between Christmas and New Year, with England's central region worst hit.

Douglas Fleming, of the RCGP flu monitoring unit, said the pattern was normal for winter. In the 1989 epidemic, the rate peaked at 580 cases per 100,000 people. But flu usually goes in cycles, peaking after five weeks, meaning the next week will see many more cases.

Like the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary in Derby has had to begin storing bodies in a refrigerated lorry and two mobile fridges after the flu added to soaring death rates. The hospital, which has the only mortuary in the region, received 258 bodies between 21 December and 5 January, compared with 120 in the same period last year. The James Paget hospital in Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth, has also had to use a refrigerated lorry as a temporary morgue.

As the bug spread south, Ian Bogle, chairman of the British Medical Association, appealed to the public not to use emergency services for uncomplicated illnesses. "You feel miserable, you feel absolutely wretched with viral illnesses, like flu, but the right place is to go to bed and taken plenty of fluids and something like aspirin and paracetamol."

Llandough Hospital, near Cardiff, was among the latest round of hospitals to cancel non-urgent surgery to provide extra beds for patients with flu and chest infections. Routine operations were also cancelled in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, because of the number of elderly patients with flu had led to a 50 per cent rise in emergency admissions.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, defended the Government against accusations that it had failed adequately to prepare for the huge rise in demand on the NHS during the flu outbreak. "You cannot have any contingency which will not leave the system under strain if you get that sort of increase."

Lesson for NHS, Review, page 4

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory health spokeswoman, at University College Hospital, London yesterday. She said the latest fall in NHS hospital waiting list figures would neither 'fool nor impress' the public *Philip Meech*

Waiting-lists fall dismissed as a 'fiddle'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

HOSPITALS YESTERDAY chalked up a record fall in NHS waiting lists – but were immediately warned that the rapidly worsening flu outbreak could mean that the gains are lost.

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to NHS hospitals fell by 31,400 in November – the seventh monthly fall in succession – to stand at 1,162,100, within a whisker of the level the Government inherited when it came to power in May 1997.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, who has seen the lists fall by more than 150,000 since they hit a peak in April 1998, commended the "skill and commitment" of NHS staff but opposition parties said the demand for cuts was politically driven and was distorting clinical priorities.

NHS managers cautioned that December and January were likely to show a different picture, as hospitals concentrated on emergency admissions and the flu outbreak. Mr Dobson acknowledged that waiting lists were likely to grow again as a result. He said: "These figures cover the period up until the end of November. Understandably and quite rightly, since then a large part of the efforts of the staff have been devoted to dealing with the serious winter pressures that we are experiencing."

Yesterday's figures also showed that the number of patients waiting for treatment for more than 12 months fell by 4,600 in November to 56,000. The total waiting list is now only 4,000 above the level of 1,158,000 that Labour inherited and which Mr Dobson pledged to better by April of this year.

Provided hospitals can cope with the current flu outbreak and the weather for the rest of the winter is not excessively severe, the NHS should comfortably meet that goal.

Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative spokeswoman on health, said the figures would come as no comfort to patients forced to wait on hospital trolleys for treatment. "Labour care far more about meeting their discredited 'early pledge' than they do about addressing the real medical priorities. This is just a fiddle to cover up a failure – patients will be neither fooled nor impressed," she said.

Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrats' health spokesman, said the Government's "obsession" with reducing waiting lists was leading to doctors' clinical priorities becoming distorted. "We have already seen, in the emergency winter crisis, the effects of this as hospitals have been forced to keep open beds for waiting-list initiative patients while emergency admissions wait on trolleys."

Small victory for ramblers in battle with landowner

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

RAMBLERS GAINED a small victory yesterday over their avowed enemy, the wealthy East Sussex landowner Nicholas van Hoogstraten.

Led by the Labour MP AndrewBennett, about 50 of them defied Mr van Hoogstraten's obstructions on the public footpath at his Framfield property by walking around them.

There were almost as many media representatives in attendance, plus a handful of police officers. But to their disappointment, there was no sign of Mr van Hoogstraten nor of any of his employees who have previously warned off ramblers.

Mr van Hoogstraten, 53, has said he regards ramblers as "scumbags" and that any who came on to his land would be "viciously dealt with". Yesterday, however, he did not return calls and was believed to be in France with his family.

The ramblers had informed him of their plans to traverse the public footpath, which runs for half a mile through his High Cross Estate and which has been blocked – they say illegally – for 10 years. A barn has been built across the path, a bridge over a stream has been removed and large steel refrigerator units have been used to form a barrier at the gate where the footpath begins.

But the walkers, led by Mr Bennett, who is the president of the Ramblers' Association and the joint chairman of the Commons Select Committee on the Environment, cut across on to the estate. They walked along the footpath, concluding by climbing over a barrier with a sign: "Private property – keep out". Despite a recent hip replacement, Mr Bennett obliged the photographers by climbing over the obstructed gate several times.

He said: "I wanted to see the route for myself and then talk to the Environment Secretary, John Prescott, about what action his department will take against this bully.

"He must not get away with blatant blocking of a public highway and intimidation of those who want to walk it. I am delighted the Ramblers' Association is taking legal action to have this path reopened."

He was accompanied by a local rambler, Jack Dunn, 82, who reported the obstructions to East Sussex County Council 10 years ago. Mr Bennett said: "What's happening here is only the tip of the iceberg of footpath obstruction. Mr van Hoogstraten's involvement made it "a very prominent tip".

East Sussex County Council is due to discuss the footpath issue on Monday. David Neighbour, a councillor who attended the march, said he had been worried about the safety of council officers because there had been reports that they have been threatened in the past by Mr van Hoogstraten's men. He said the council had not taken legal action against Mr van Hoogstraten because it was too costly.

■ The Government's hesitation about its promised right to roam over open countryside is to be highlighted by a Labour MP's private member's Bill.

Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, is to table a Bill next week proposing a legal right of access for walkers and ramblers to uncultivated land. It is likely to receive substantial support from backbench Labour MPs as a sign of their mounting disquiet at the Government's lack of action on a firm pre-election commitment.

The Government's proposals are still awaited seven months after the end of the public consultation exercise.

The consultation document was widely seen as a watering-down of the original right to roam commitment.

The right to roam has already been conceded north of the border.

This week's Scottish land reform proposals say that " a right of responsible access to land for informal recreation, on enclosed as well as on open and hill ground, should be enshrined in law".

RSC goes to war against National

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

BRITAIN'S TWO best-known theatre companies were locked in a suitably erudite row last night – over who knows best how to stage Shakespeare.

Behind the disagreement is the Royal Shakespeare Company's simmering resentment that the Arts Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, has praised the National Theatre and given it a huge uplift in grant, while giving the RSC much less.

Yesterday, a senior figure in the Royal Shakespeare Company, associate director Michael Attenborough, said that the National Theatre had not had any successes with Shakespeare productions on its main stages.

And next week RSC artistic director Adrian Noble will tell Mr Robinson that his company has not only delivered artistically; it has acted in line with the Labour Party and government policy of taking theatre to new audiences, and particularly to young people.

The RSC's grant has increased by only 5 per cent to £8.8m, while the National has received a 9 per cent increase of £1m, which will take its Arts Council grant to £12.2m. When he announced the grants recently, Mr Robinson painted the two companies in very different lights.

He said: "The RSC has problems. It needs help. Their problems are substantial and not even an increase of 10 per cent would have been enough to sort them out. It has taken on too much."

By contrast, he said of the National: "The National Theatre has coped brilliantly with standstill funding for the past five years, and the quality of its work and success at attracting new audiences argued strongly for a an increase of this kind."

Launching his new season yesterday, Adrian Noble pointedly stressed that the RSC had acted in accordance with Labour Party policy by moving out of London for half of the year and taking its work around the country. He also pointed out that the National runs three theatres in its building on the South Bank in London while the RSC has three in Stratford-upon-Avon and two at the Barbican Centre in the capital, as well as having residencies in Newcastle and Plymouth.

He said: "We have taken our productions to the regions. And 40,000 people have come to Stratford for the first time this year. Many of these have been young people."

An RSC insider added: "It's not so much the difference in money that's the problem. It's the National being lauded like that."

And as the RSC announced details of their new season yesterday, Mr Attenborough made a point of saying: "The National has not had a single successful production of Shakespeare on its main stages in the last 10 years."

That will sting the National, which has put on *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III*, *Antony And Cleopatra*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* in its main auditoria.

Mr Attenborough later qualified his statement by agreeing that Deborah Warner's production of *King Lear* and Ian McKellen in *Richard III* had had some success, though mixed reviews. But he said that only the RSC really knew how to produce Shakespeare on large stages in front of big audiences.

One senior RSC insider said that when the National had a critical flop last year with Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman in *Antony and Cleopatra*, "a lot of us in Stratford were saying to each other 'now they know it's not that easy'."

The RSC yesterday announced one of their starriest years for a loog time, of which ooe of the highlights will be *Antony and Cleopatra* starring Alan Bates and Frances de la Tour. The newly knighted Nigel Hawthorne will star in *King Lear* directed by Japan's Yukio Ninagawa (a co-production with West End producer Thelma Holt); the first RSC production of *Othello* for 14 years will place black actor Ray Fearon in the title role, and *Timon of Athens* will play in the main house for the first time since 1965. There will also be an adaptation of Ted Hughes's *Tales Of Ovid*. The late poet laureate was working on this with RSC staff just days before his death.

The National will also be staging a Ted Hughes adaptation, his version of the *Oresteia*.

Adrian Noble said he would be meeting Mr Robinson next week and would be hoping to have the RSC's grant increased by special "stabilisation funding". This is lottery money earmarked to help companies restructure their administrative set-up.

A spokeswoman for the National Theatre retorted last night: "We have mounted a number of extremely successful Shakespeare productions on our main stages.

"When *Othello* transferred to a main stage from the Cottesloe it sold out."

'The Winter's Tale' by the RSC: The company is locked in a row with the National Theatre over who stages the best Shakespeare *N Norrington*

THE PAY'S THE THING

National Theatre.
Artistic Director:
Trevor Nunn
Grant 1999: £12.2m
Olivier Awards 1998: six
Staff: 650, including 170 actors
Number of theatres: three
Big hits last year: *Oklahoma!*; Tennessee Williams's *Not about Nightingales*; Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.
Big plans this year: *The Oresteia*; *Troilus and Cressida*, directed by Trevor Nunn in the main Olivier Theatre.

Royal Shakespeare Company.
Artistic Director:
Adrian Noble

Grant 1999: £8.8m
Olivier Awards 1998: none
Staff: 750, including 100 actors
Theatres: five
Big hits last year: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *School for Scandal*; *Hamlet*.
Big plans this year: *King Lear* (Nigel Hawthorne) *Antony and Cleopatra* (Alan Bates, Frances de la Tour).

Litany of disgust over airline meals

BY DARIUS SANAI

IT'S OFFICIAL: your in-flight meal is revolting. Or, to be more specific, the food served on the transatlantic slog is a leathery, congealed, fibrous form of "gastronomic murder".

Egon Ronay, the doyen of food critics and scourge of gastronomic mediocrity for more than four decades, has finally come to the conclusion most of us reached the first time we tasted a flaccid chicken fillet at 32,000 feet.

"The food," he said yesterday, after he and his team had travelled back and forth across the Atlantic several times, "was mostly unacceptable."

Mr Ronay went on to expound on his litany of disgust, with airlines from British Airways to Northwest via KLM and United being accused of serving everything from coagulated beef to synthetic desserts and overcooked pasta.

The BA lunch was "an unmitigated disaster", and even Air France's in-flight meal was "pitiful", he said.

Britain has had plenty of reasons to be grateful to Mr Ronay, a Hungarian immigrant whose cajoling helped to transform the national cuisine in the postwar years.

In this particular case, though, unless they are one of the chosen few up front, any diner is likely to conclude that the only reason airlines serve food at all is to keep the passengers from getting too drunk.

But why is it so bad? Partly, as Mr Ronay acknowledges, it's because it is cooked on the ground, chilled, then reheated. But the key may lie in his conclusion that the problem is about a lack of originality.

"I don't know why airlines are so set on serving hot food," says Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, a restaurant critic at *The Independent on Sunday*.

The sandwich cabinet at Marks and Spencer, he says, is more appealing than any economy class menu.

But airlines, through their own research, are determined to serve hot food, though there is no legal requirement to serve passengers even so much as an *amuse-gueule* on any flight, however long.

Egon Ronay: Air France food was 'pitiful'

A senior airline industry source, who wishes to remain anonymous, commented yesterday: "Airlines are in the business of keeping their passengers calm.

"Whatever the food actually tastes like, the one-hour trolley ritual, with the tea and coffee afterwards, has that effect, and makes passengers feel like they're being treated."

Hormonal 'alarm clock' is the key to waking on time

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered that the body has an internal "alarm clock" which can be "set" before people go to sleep.

The discovery shows that waking up from a night's sleep can be consciously controlled so individuals can force themselves out of bed if they really have to.

A study of a group of healthy volunteers has shown that the body's alarm clock begins to alert sleepers to the anticipated waking-up time about an hour beforehand.

Rising levels of adrenocorticotropin, a hormone released during the day to deal with stress, start to prepare sleepers for the biological wake-up call, according to Jan Born, professor of neuroendocrinology at the University of Lübeck in Germany.

When the volunteers were told to wake up at 6am, their hormone levels began to rise about an hour beforehand, but when told they would have to wake at 9am, hormone levels began rising at 8am.

"The regulation of adrenocorticotropin release during nocturnal sleep is therefore not confined to daily rhythms; it also reflects a preparatory process in anticipation of the end of sleep," Professor Born and his colleagues report in the journal *Nature*.

Adrenocorticotropin is known to prepare the body for a stressful event during the day and now seems to be involved in getting the body ready for the "stress" of waking up, Professor Born said.

"This system is suppressed in the early hours of sleep but becomes activated in the later hours of sleep, just before someone wakes up. It is a completely new view of sleep," he said.

What makes the finding important is the discovery of an element of conscious control over when the hormone is released – the results show people can clearly distinguish between an anticipated sleep time of either six or nine hours.

"The increase of adrenocorticotropin release before the expected time of waking indicates that anticipation, generally considered to be a unique characteristic of the regulation of conscious action, pervades sleep," the researchers report.

Professor Born said there must be a biological mechanism controlling the clock, to inform the body about how much time has been spent asleep, but "it must be a very slow-acting clock and we have no idea what it could be," he said.

The next stage of the research is to determine how brain activity can influence the release of the hormone which could enable the researchers to devise a way of helping people who find it difficult to wake up in the morning.

IN BRIEF

Two more meningitis victims

A BABY girl and a boy, 16, died yesterday from meningitis. The eight-month-old girl died at her Birmingham home while Trevor Stockton died in hospital in Macclesfield, Cheshire. They bring to 12 the number of people known to have died from meningitis over Christmas and the New Year.

Scheduled flight delays increase

DELAYS TO scheduled flights at London's five main airports rose from 13 to 16 minutes during the summer but charter flight delays fell to 38 minutes from 46, according to figures published by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday.

Viking exhibit thrown away

A 12TH-CENTURY Viking ship's plank, recovered from the River Liffey, was accidently thrown out by a workman instead of being moved from Ireland's National Museum to a store room. Searches of a dump have proved fruitless.

Prince Edward to marry

PRINCE EDWARD yesterday announced his engagement to his girlfriend of five years, Sophie Rhys-Jones. The couple are hoping to marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in the late spring or summer.

Call for schools to allow naughtiness

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

SCHOOLS SHOULD allow children to be naughty and to break rules to help them become confident adults, a management guru said yesterday.

Charles Handy told the North of England education conference in Sunderland that teachers who connived at rule-breaking might be encouraging the entrepreneurs of the future. He described how a 13-year-old boy who was allowed to sell pirate videos at school became a highly successful businessman.

Mr Handy, conference president and author of business management books, said: "Schools are protected proving zones and should let pupils get away with a bit of naughtiness ... Thinking outside the box in adult life is often the equivalent of a little naughtiness in a child."

Mr Handy said non-conformity would help people survive in the confusing world of market capitalism, and good grades should be only part of education.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, accused Mr Handy of inciting riots in the classroom. "Heaven protect the education service from nonsense like this," he said.

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Steam returns for commuters after 30 years

A train on the private North Yorkshire Moors Railway. The firm's expertise has been used to train drivers for the new service *Tony Bartholemew*

FOR THOUSANDS of school children – and grown men – it would be a dream come true. Six train drivers who usually operate humble diesel commuter services are to bring steam back to a scenic North Yorkshire line this summer.

In a unique partnership between a privatised train firm and a heritage railway, steam trains will return to Whitby, the historic port town, for the first time in 30 years.

Northern Spirit, which runs commuter trains across north-east England, is working with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway to run the trains from Pickering to Whitby.

The rail companies are working with the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and local authorities to seal a deal with Railtrack to upgrade signalling at Grosmont, where the heritage line from Pickering meets the main line from Middlesbrough that runs along the Esk valley to Whitby.

Six Northern Spirit drivers volunteered to be trained to operate the steam trains. They completed a three-week course

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

on firemen's duties, driving mainline steam trains, safety rules and mechanics. They will share the roles of drivers, firemen and conductors.

A spokesman for Northern Spirit, Gary Callighan, said: "There has been no shortage of our staff wanting to drive the new service. It is certainly bringing out the boy in some of our drivers."

A successful trial run – sold out weeks in advance – between Pickering and Whitby in November last year carried 309 enthusiasts on the *Captain Cook Pullman*, staffed by three of the newly trained crew, Chris Cubitt, Ginner Beavers and Roy Lingham. Mr Callighan said: "We had sold out of tickets within three hours. The demand was amazing."

The two rail organisations now hope to run a programme of Sunday evening trains this summer that may tie in with North Yorkshire Moor Railway's dining services. It should go some way to meet the nostalgic demand for steam captured in films such as *The Railway Children* and *Brief Encounter*.

David Bishop, Northern Spirit's general manager, said: "The Esk valley route is one of the most scenic railways in Britain. This link-up with the North Yorkshire Valley Railway will allow us to run additional services to meet the increasing demand for leisure travel to this lovely part of Yorkshire."

Chris Hudson, of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, said: "There is nothing better than to see a steam engine winding its way through the North Yorkshire countryside. There is a lot more life in a steam train than in a smelly old diesel."

A service between Pickering and Whitby first ran on 26 May 1836, when thousands of people turned out to cheer a horse pulling a coach at about 10 miles an hour. The subsequent 30-mile rail line immediately became a popular success, but it was closed in the Sixties under the Beeching cutbacks.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway was reopened in 1973, catering for a large tourist trade.

Rail firm surveys 'focus on trivia'

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

A FRESH crackdown on the privatised rail industry is to be launched by the Government, which is setting up a national customer satisfaction survey to identify failing train companies.

The new system will ensure that regulators can make effective comparisons between all 25 passenger train companies.

Ministers are unhappy with the current system under which train firms are obliged to carry out customer surveys twice a year but are allowed to set the questions and decide how they are published.

The move came as the Consumers' Association yesterday accused train companies of focusing on trivia, when customers wanted punctual trains and a comfortable journey.

According to passengers questioned for the association's *Which?* magazine, train punctuality and availability of seats should be rail companies' priorities. However, some companies asked passengers about the appearance of their staff and the quality of food. Customers in the *Which?* survey showed little interest in these issues.

A spokesman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions accepted the current surveys had "limitations", especially because they made it difficult to make national comparisons.

He added: "We are going to introduce a new passenger survey to find out what passengers think about rail services and to help measure performance across the network."

The results would be used alongside punctuality and reliability figures to judge train companies under new rules being brought in by the Government in response to a decline in train performance.

The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf) has put out tenders for research to find out which areas passengers want covered. A pilot study would be run before any national scheme was established.

Helen Parker, the editor of *Which?*, said: "Rail companies' current passenger surveys are close to useless. They should be the responsibility of the regulator, not the companies."

She said the surveys took no account of changes since rail privatisation, making it hard to get an accurate picture of customer satisfaction levels.

Which? found that of the 21 companies whose surveys were published by Opraf in August, only 13 asked about overcrowding, nine about frequency and eight about information provided on late or cancelled services. These topped the list in the *Which?* survey of passenger priorities.

Which? gave questionnaires to 923 commuters during rush hours on four days during September 1998 at nine major rail stations. The survey showed:

- More than a third had been late for work at least once in the previous week because of train delays;
- 40 per cent had to stand during their journey at least once a week;
- 15 per cent could not sit down on between half and all of their journeys.

The Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc) attacked the *Which?* survey as "flawed and too narrow to draw meaningful conclusions". It said one train company alone interviewed six times as many people as *Which?* did for its survey.

Ivor Warburton, Atoc chairman, said: "Existing surveys are not useless or trivial but can be improved on. Some standardisation in survey questioning is to be welcomed.

"The needs of customers vary according to the type of rail service – long distance, commuter or rural."

Four attacked in N Ireland 'punishment shootings'

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE LATEST round of so-called "punishment attacks" in Belfast has brought renewed political condemnation of a practice which is now regarded as a matter of routine in areas where paramilitary groups hold sway.

Both the IRA and major loyalist groups such as the UVF and UDA continue to be involved in shootings and beatings of people, usually young men, whom they deem to be involved in "anti-social activity".

In the latest incidents four men were injured in two attacks in Belfast and the nearby town of Antrim. In the first incident a man was abducted from the Falls Road, while another was bundled into a car in the Ballymurphy area of west Belfast.

The two men, aged 27 and 29, were taken to an alleyway, where they each received one gunshot wound to the leg. They were being treated in hospital yesterday. The attack is assumed to be the work of the IRA; the group does not publicly admit involvement in such activities but it is an open secret that it carries out beatings and shootings.

In the second incident five masked men, one of whom carried a gun, burst into a flat in Donegore Drive in Antrim town. Two men in the flat were taken into the kitchen and beaten with metal bars and other implements, suffering head and leg injuries. In this instance loyalists are the prime suspects.

Most such attacks are, however, carried out by paramilitaries. According to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, last year saw 51 beatings and 38 shootings by republicans and 86 beatings and 34 shootings by loyalists. These figures represent a decrease on 1996 figures, which totalled 320.

Many of the attacks cause permanent injury and scarring, and in a number of cases limbs have been lost when doctors removed legs after "kneecappings."

In some cases there have been deaths, as happened last summer, when a north Belfast man, Andrew Kearney, bled to death after being shot in both legs. The Kearney attack reputedly followed a quarrel he had with a senior IRA figure.

In 1997 a Belfast Presbyterian minister, wrongly suspected of being a paedophile, died after being attacked by loyalists who inflicted two broken legs, a suspected fractured skull and puncture wounds.

Most of the attacks are said to be carried out on individuals suspected of involvement in activities such as joyriding, burglaries and drugs, though some have a personal element. One man who was seriously injured is said to have been attacked because he played lond music which disturbed the grandmother of a loyalist paramilitary figure.

Although paramilitary attacks produce political criticism, there is no real sign that they cause major resentment in either republican or loyalist areas. This is partly because they have come to be regarded as a familiar feature of life there and partly because those attacked are presumed to have misbehaved in some way.

A west Belfast woman said yesterday: "Everybody shrugs and says they must have done something pretty bad for the Provos to shoot them, that they weren't shot for nothing. People here generally approve of it, or more often they don't really care. There is no outrage about it – the only outrage comes from politicians."

■ A workman was slightly injured yesterday when a small device exploded in the grounds of a Catholic sporting club at Magherafelt, Co Londonderry. The man is said to have lifted a concrete block which had apparently been boobytrapped.

The incident bears the hallmarks of a loyalist attack. Sinn Fein said the incident was the latest in a series of attacks on nationalist targets in the area in recent months.

A renegade loyalist group claimed responsibility. The Orange Volunteers said they planted a booby-trap bomb in the grounds of the club.

In a coded statement the group said: "The wider nationalist community now have everything to fear now the siege of Ulster continues, with the British government abandoning the loyalist people and the Irish government standing up for republicans, the Orange Volunteers are ready to defend our people."

Police said a bomb warning had been telephoned to the club yesterday but when officers searched the grounds nothing was found.

The victim of an IRA 'punishment squad' that used a shotgun in the attack in Belfast *Pacemaker*

HIGH COST IN HEALTH AND HOUSING

SHOOTINGS, beatings and continuing terrorism cost Northern Ireland millions of pounds last year, according to latest figures.

Information released by the pressure group Families Against Intimidation suggests there were more than 70 shootings, more than 150 beatings and more than 250 instances of intimidation carried out as "punishment".

The figures also show that such acts of violence cost about £3.1m in hospital treatment and compensation for victims. A further £4.15m was spent on rehousing civilians and members of the security forces.

More than £1.5m was spent relocating civilians who were forced to leave the country.

"Terrorists continue to abuse the trust of the majority of people in Northern Ireland who voted for an end to terrorism in the referendum," said a spokesman.

Shootings and beatings carried out by the IRA and Loyalists 1972-1998:

Year	Loyalist	IRA	Total
1972	21	53	74
1974	43	84	127
1975	50	139	189
1976	36	62	98
1977	38	98	136
1978	37	50	87
1979	29	51	76
1980	38	51	89
1981	24	56	80
1982	22	58	80
1983	9	22	31
1984	5	20	25
1985	11	21	32
1986	24	17	41
1987	87	37	123
1988	34	32	66
1989	85	96	181
1990	60	48	108
1991	40	36	76
1992	73	60	133
1993	57	27	84
1994	38	32	70
1995	76	141	217
1996	130	172	302
1997	77	78	155
1998	119	118	237

'Make 'em laugh' and win your staff's heart

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

IF YOU want to lead your employees into a bright new future, "make 'em laugh".

Intelligence and attractiveness go a long way when managers are trying to introduce changes, but the most potent weapon is humour, according to a psychologist.

If executives are running organisations which are simply ticking over – so called "transactional leadership" – then the fun factor is unimportant.

But when the chips are down and managers are trying to show "transformational leadership", jokes go a long way in motivating staff, the annual conference of the British Psychological Society (BPS) heard.

"The transformational leader makes subordinates feel that he or she cares about them. Such a person does not simply say: 'You are paid to do the job so get on with it.' – they present a vision of the future. The advantage is that workers gain job satisfaction and perform better," said Howard Taylor, head of psychology at Chilterns University College in Buckinghamshire.

In a study of the attitude of Air Training Corps cadets to their officers, Mr Taylor found that intelligence, attractiveness and humour all rated highly, but humour was virtually synonymous with leadership.

Mr Taylor said that researchers were surprised with their findings given the strict hierarchical structure in any military organisation.

He conceded that while humour could be a means of cementing "group cohesion", it could also underline the leader's dominance. Sometimes there was a "victim" of the joke.

He said that senior firefighters often used humour, although the jokes could be of a "macho" nature.

■ British managers are becoming more like their US counterparts, the BPS heard.

Organisations have become increasingly "systematised" and there is increasing recognition that managers are professionals, said Barbara Senior of Nene University College, Northampton.

Bosses 'stigmatise' tenants

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

CLEVER COUNCIL tenants are condemned to do far worse in the world of work than their intellectual equals who own their own homes, according to the latest research.

Residents on council estates with high IQs are affected by a damaging sub-culture which promotes "anti-social, resentful and aggressive" behaviour, the conference of the British Psychological Society heard.

Mark Cook of the University of Wales, Swansea, said talented people who live on council estates were often unemployed and those who worked were fed up with the job they were doing.

Dr Cook, a lecturer in psychology, said that "residential segregation" was a far more important factor in predicting employment success than social class. Talented working class home owners invariably did better than their counterparts on council estates.

Dr Cook called for more mixed housing and greater understanding from employers. "A person might have a chip on his shoulder, but might also be talented. Unfortunately they are often dropped by employers as soon as they get a bit awkward," he said.

Too much sex on the TV, viewers say

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

CONFESSIONAL TELEVISION talk-shows are facing criticism again, this time over their perceived obsession with sex, research launched by the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) revealed yesterday.

It found there is only so much sex a person can take and it appears that limit has been reached, as viewers' tolerance of endless chat on Jerry Springer, Ricki Lake and their like about how "my girlfriend is a man" or "I can't get enough and it's driving my husband bonkers" is ebbing fast.

Sex and Sensibility, which provides insight into viewers' attitudes towards the depiction of sex on television, says most people accept sex as a fact of broadcasting life. However, there has been an increase in the past year in the numbers (from 32 per cent to 36 per cent) believing there is too much on British screens, particularly on talk-shows.

A teenage girl interviewed said: "It's like a Marks & Spencer sandwich – an everyday thing." Another female from the 16- to-24 age group said: "The majority of times you turn the TV on, you can guarantee that sex will come up in the programme; there are a lot of other things the early-evening shows could talk about."

Lady Howe, chairwoman of the BSC, warned broadcasters that they needed to listen to viewers' concerns. "People accept sex as a fact of life, some even readily enjoy it," she said. "But that does not mean they want to see it on the hour every hour. Like everything else, a balanced diet is a healthy diet."

Although tolerance varied by age and gender (older people and women were less comfortable with on-screen sex), the vast majority (78 per cent) felt depiction was justified provided it was integral to the story.

Half of those viewers presented with a homosexual kiss on *EastEnders* felt it was acceptable, although two-thirds thought it should have been transmitted after the 9pm watershed.

This programme and similar storylines on *Brookside* have helped, the report says, to create a more equitable view of homosexuality on television. In 1992, the last time the survey was carried out, less than half said it was acceptable to show gay relationships on screen. Fifty eight per cent believe it is suitable today.

Overall, audiences take a cynical view of broadcasters' intentions in depicting sex, nearly three-quarters saying it is used as a cheap stunt to boost ratings. The report paints a picture of broad satisfaction with the current television regime governing sex. The 9pm watershed is well understood, as are the many warnings now made at the beginning of programmes. Controversy surrounding on-screen sex has been a broadcasting constant since the Pilkington Report bemoaned falling moral standards and talked about television's "preoccupation with the sordid and sleazy".

Television drama in the 1960s was placed in the hands of writers like Ken Loach, Dennis Potter and Harold Pinter, feisty auteurs who assaulted the senses with gritty tales laced with sexual realism.

They led the way for the wholesale adoption of sex as a legitimate theme for mainstream popular entertainment, to the extent that it now permeates practically every genre of programming, from late-night exercises in mass titillation (*Eurotrash*) to cerebral factual programming like *Anatomy of Desire*, as well as drama and film.

Some of the scenes that caused controversy in the debate over the depiction of sex on the small screen. Clockwise from top left: 'Brookside', 'The Singing Detective', 'Up the Junction', 'I, Claudius' and 'This Life'

THE NAKED AND THE PANNED

Up the Junction
The "Swinging Sixties" resulted in a rash of dramas that drew heavily on sexual realism. Nell Dunn's *Up the Junction*, with its scene of a backstreet abortion, was one of the first programmes to attract the wrath of Mary Whitehouse.

Casanova
Mrs Whitehouse popped up again to condemn the "lewdness" of this 1971 six-parter starring Frank Finlay opposite women in varying states of undress.

Bouquet of Barbed Wire
Frank Finlay appeared to be making a career out of sex. Now incest featured in this 1976 series seen by 20 million viewers.

I, Claudius
BBC2's *I, Claudius* was a high-class production, starring Derek Jacobi and John Hurt packed with murder, incest and lots of orgies.

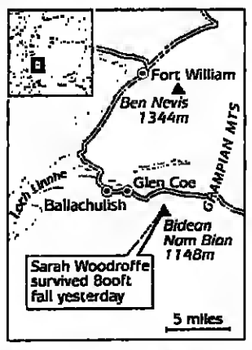
The Singing Detective
Take your pick from Dennis Potter's canon but most people tend to remember 1986's *The Singing Detective* and Patrick Malahide's bare backside.

Brookside/EastEnders
Both series' depictions of homosexuality marked big development in the presentation of taboos. And the fact that lesbian (*Brookside*) and gay (*EastEnders*) kisses were met with minimal fuss showed how far viewers' tolerance had come.

This Life
Amy Jenkins' series was packed full of excess but one area it made real progress in was the graphic portrayal of gay sex, which it achieved with an almost casual insouciance.

Snow saves climber in 800ft plunge

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent



A WOMAN student was in hospital with spinal injuries yesterday after an 800-foot slide down a snow-covered mountain above Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. Soft snow cushioned her careering descent of the boulder-strewn steep ground, probably saving her life.

Sarah Woodroffe, 20, who is studying at Durham University, was descending Bidean Nam Bian, the highest peak in the area, when she slipped and fell late on Tuesday afternoon. Her companion, a man from Hertfordshire, tried to raise the alarm, but was unable to descend the mountain due to failing light.

Passing climbers heard their calls for help and alerted mountain rescue teams. Ms Woodroffe was airlifted to Belford Hospital, Fort William, suffering from a fracture to the cervical spine and also to the left knee cap. She was later transferred for specialist treatment at Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, and is expected to "walk out" of its spinal unit in two to three weeks.

Slips on steep ground are the commonest cause of accidents in the Scottish hills. Survival is then a matter of luck and the type of terrain the victim hurtles down; the fewer the rocks, the better the chances. On New Year's Day, Michael Burnham, 26, an engineer from Bristol, fell more than 900ft down Sgorr Dhearg, another Glencoe peak, and escaped with minor injuries. But only a few miles away Paul Fooks, 38, from Nottingham, slid 1,500ft to his death on Sgurr a' Mhaim.

Paul Williams, secretary of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, said Ms Woodroffe and her companion were descending from the summit of Bidean when she slipped at around 3,000 feet. "Her injuries could have been far worse," he said. "If the snow had been rock hard she would have gone off like a rocket."

Weather conditions were "generally mild", but the rescue operation was hampered by mist, making it difficult for the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth to land. Ms Woodroffe had to be carried by team members almost to the main road.

Ms Woodroffe was among a group of 12 to 15 people, including some other members of Durham University mountaineering club, on a privately arranged holiday in the area. They had split into smaller groups for the day and were due to meet in the late afternoon.

"When they did not arrive, the alarm was raised by the others," said university spokesman Keith Seacroft.

Ms Woodroffe, from Lincoln, is a second-year geography student. She is a qualified trainer for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme and before going to Durham, spent four months in Switzerland helping to organise activities in the Alps for the Guide Association.

In a separate incident, a rescue helicopter was scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth as darkness fell last night after a rucksack and its contents were found on Ben Nevis. No one had been reported missing, but members of the Lochaber mountain-rescue team were flown to the area to begin a search.

For all the horrors of the New Year holiday period, serious accidents are falling as a proportion of those going out on the Scottish hills to walk and climb.

Kevin Howett, national officer for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, reckons the number of hillgoers has at least doubled. On a fine weekend day, there may be 50,000 people at play in the Highlands. However, the number of fatalities has fallen from around 45 a year in the early Nineties to 25 last year.

Mr Howett said: "People are better equipped – very few people are going up the Ben [Nevis] in high heels, and the effort ... in trying to educate people about the risks seems to have paid off."

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 7 January 1999

Impeachment: Proceedings in the Senate start today, but parties still fail to agree on the way forward

Uncertainty surrounds Clinton trial

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE SENATE trial of Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, is set to open today amid much media fanfare, minimal sense of drama and still less public concern. Only the second impeachment trial of a president in US history and the first this century, the trial became inevitable yesterday after the failure of last-minute efforts by Republican leaders in the Senate to negotiate a compromise.

While the proceedings are to begin today, however, the exact definition of "begin" could be subject to revision. The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, confirmed that the trial would opeo formally today and proceed next week, even if no time-scale was agreed beforehand. "The process will begin tomorrow," he told reporters yesterday, "and it will include activities on Monday. Exactly what those activities will be we'll have to still determine."

Mr Lott was speaking after an early morning meeting with his Democratic counterpart, Tom Daschle, which had apparently failed to produce an agreement on the duration of the trial or whether witnesses would be called.

A strong body of opinioo among Republican Senators insists that a trial is not a trial unless witnesses are called and questioned, so that the Senate, which constitutes the jury in an impeachment trial, can make up its own mind about the merits of the case.

Democrats – and, it is believed, the White House – had by yesterday almost abandoned hopes of substituting a censure vote for a trial. But they were still arguing for abbreviated proceedings that would rest on tbe report and evidence collected by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and the arguments in the House of Representatives.

The calling of witnesses, who could include Monica Lewinsky and ber treacherous confidante, Linda Tripp, has been strongly opposed oot only by the White House and by Democrats sympathetic to Mr Clinton, but also by sections of the Republican party.

Some politicians, especially those representing conservative constituencies, fear that the presentation of graphic evidence in public could rebound against the Republicans at the next elections.

One of the strongest advocates of calling witnesses has been Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee, which formulated the articles of impeachment. Mr Hyde will lead the "prosecution" case at the Senate trial and will open the proceedings by reading the two articles passed by the House last month. These accuse Mr Clinton of multiple counts of perjury and obstruction of justice in trying to conceal the nature of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

Mr Daschle, for the Democrats, is against opening a trial without securing undertakings on its form and duration. This means that the proceedings could be stalled before they start. This view is also believed to be shared by the White House, which has kept a low profile on the impeachment issue in recent days, apparently so as not to antagonise the Senate by aeeming to influence its deliberations.

The White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said only: "There's obviously some frustration that we don't know what the procedures will be," adding that it was "a concern of the American people that this be done expeditiously".

In the past two weeks, Mr Clinton has stuck rigidly to what he calls "the nation's business", announcing generous spending proposals that could find their way into this year's budget and capping the optimism yesterday with his announcement of a projected $76bn domestic budget surplus for 1999.

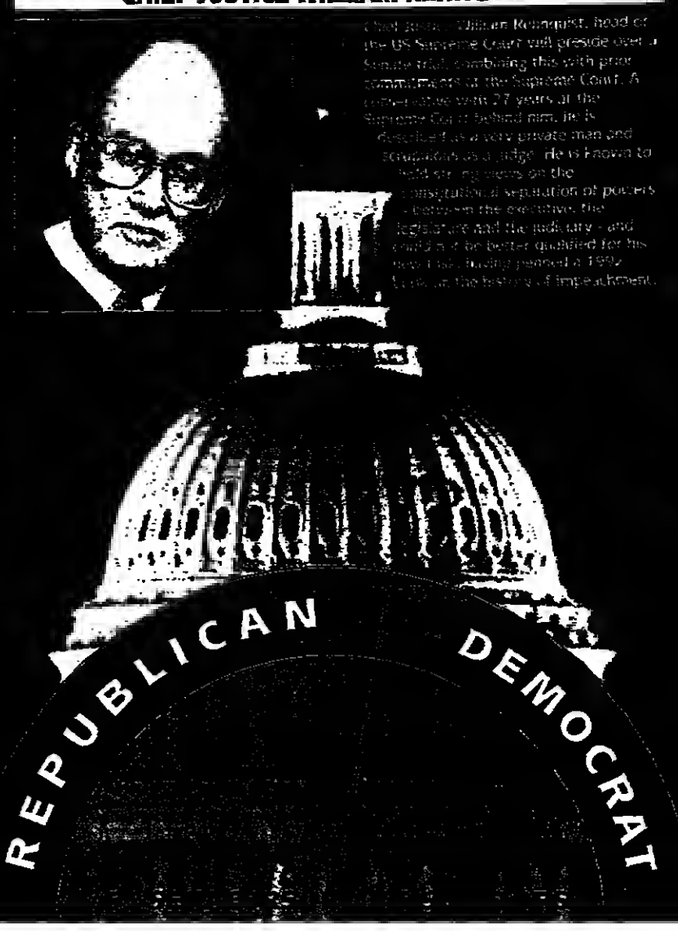
As the 106th Congress opened yesterday, the historic task before it was almost lost in the welter of matter-of-fact procedures. In the House of Representatives the roll call was followed by a formal vote for the new Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, whose nomination was uncontested by his own party and whose electioo was a foregone conclusion. Across the Capitol Rotunda, the Senators took their oaths.

SITTING IN JUDGMENT: THE SENATE DELIVERS ITS VERDICT ON THE PRESIDENT

PROSECUTION: HENRY HYDE

Chairman of the House of Representatives judiciary committee, which drew up Articles of Impeachment against the President and oversaw their passage through the House in December. Patrician in manner and nationally described as "highly respected" and "fastidious", he is a 50-year-old man. Hyde is a devoutly religious man with a sense of history who believes Clinton brought his presidential oath to uphold the law into disrepute and should be removed.

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST



Chief Justice William Rehnquist, head of the US Supreme Court, will preside over a Senate trial, combining this with prior commitments at the Supreme Court. A conservative with 27 years at the Supreme Court behind him, he is described as a very private man and recognised as a judge. He is known to hold strong opinions on the constitutional separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary – and could be better qualified for his role than anything passed in 1992 Lists in the history of impeachment.

DEFENCE: CHARLES RUFF

Chief White House counsel, a shrewd and eloquent man who is crippled from a childhood disease and uses a wheelchair. He summed up the President's defence before the House judiciary committee and gave ground in an attempt to strengthen Clinton's position. Admitted that the President's evasions and hair-splitting under oath might look to "reasonable people" like perjury, but insisted the accusations would not stand up in a court of law and were certainly not impeachable.

REPUBLICANS: TRENT LOTT

Republican majority leader in the Senate and Senator from Mississippi with ties to the Religious Right. His attempts to broker a deal with the Democrats – for curtailed proceedings without witnesses to save the country the agony of a protracted trial – alienated the right of his own party which wants a full trial. He now has to try once again to unite his fractured party in the Senate as preparations for a trial proceed.

DEMOCRATS: TOM DASCHLE

Senator for South Dakota and leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, who has successfully marshalled Democrats behind calls for censure or a short trial, but so far failed to reach agreement with the Republicans. Daschle was among the harshest Democrats in his condemnation of Clinton's conduct in the Lewinsky affair but never joined those who were arguing for impeachment.

What Constitution says – and what it doesn't

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washingtoo

WHEN THE Senate convenes, as it is expected to today, to open the trial of President William Jefferson Clinton, its constitutional status and task will be clear. As set out in the US Constitution, the Senate has the "sole power to try all impeachments" – that includes the recall of judges and other elected officials, up to the President.

Seoators fulfil the role of jurors. They are sworn in, and must remain silent for the duration. If witnesses are called, Senators may submit written questions. When the subject of impeachment is the President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in this case 72-year-old William Rehnquist, presides.

The Constitution says that "no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present" – which would be 67 of the 100 Senators – and stipulates that judgment "shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States".

This appears to preclude the levy of a fine or imposition of a formal reprimand, as some have proposed, but there is no mentioo of whether a fine or reprimand (censure) could be applied in place of a trial. This could be a question for dispute at the start of proceedings.

The Constitutional provisions for impeachment conclude by saying that impeachment and removal from office does not preclude subsequent prosecution. "The party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law." This would leave open the possibility that Mr Clinton could be prosecuted for perjury or obstruction of justice – the two charges forwarded to the Senate by the House of Representatives – once he leaves office.

That provision supports the view that there may be conduct that is impeachable but not criminal and vice versa, but there may also be conduct that is both. One suggested compromise was for Mr Clinton to accept a censure and be allowed to serve out his term, on condition that he agreed to face criminal charges afterwards. Prosecutors would have two years after Mr Clinton leaves office to bring charges.

Opinions differ about the prospects for cooviction. While most believe the Senators would vote along party lines, making a two-thirds majority unlikely, a few believe they would behave more as jurors, weighing the evidence and perhaps coocluding that Mr Clinton should be removed.

Israelis seize cars at British consulate

AN ISRAELI tax blitz on Arab staff of the British consulate-general in east Jerusalem yesterday has opened a hornets' nest of questions about the status of the holy city, which both Israel and the Palestinians claim as their capital.

Tax inspectors impounded the private cars of four locally hired officials and demanded back-payment of hundreds of thousands of pounds in income tax. They told them the vehicles would be returned only if they paid off the alleged arrears, and threatened to raid their homes and seize their belongings.

Under a 20-year-old informal agreement, Israel did not tax the 19 consular employees. They are not Israeli citizens, but they live in part of Jerusalem which Israel annexed after the 1967 war. Their Israeli identity cards differentiate them from West Bank Palestinians and allow them to move more freely.

Until 1992, British tax was deducted at source, but since then they have paid no income tax in either country. Two years ago, the Israeli tax authorities began sending demands.

Juliette Zakkak, 41, an assistant management officer, described how she was ambushed at an army checkpoint on her way to the office on Tuesday. She was born in Amman and holds a Jordanian passport.

"Between six and eight armed policemen surrounded my car and ordered me to get out and hand over the licence and the keys," she said. "After they took my car, I sat for four hours with the tax people and my accountant, but it didn't help... They presented me with a bill for 1,796,488 shekels (about £260,000) they said I owed them for 1987 to 1993 ... I said I had never earned anything like it. They said I'd get the car back if I paid 1 million shekels. If not, they would sell it. Then they would take my furniture and my possessions."

Yesterday morning, the tax squad seized the cars of three more Arab staff parked outside the consulate. When the acting consul-general, Charles Winnington-Ingram, phoned the tax office, he was told Israel was within its rights. "We are operating in a muddy area," he said, admitting that the immunity agreement had never been put in writing. "This is at the centre of the dispute over the status of east Jerusalem, which we and most other foreign governments maintain is occupied territory."

After a long day of diplomatic activity, the tax commissioner, Yoni Kaplan, suspended the blitz pending an opinion from Foreign Ministry lawyers on the consulate workers, expected within a week. Until then, a tax spokeswoman declared, Ms Zakkak and her colleagues can have their cars back.

By Eric Silver
in Jerusalem


Juliette Zakkak: Caught in ambush driving to work


Iraqi soldiers passing the monument to the Unknown Soldier in Army Day ceremonies in Baghdad yesterday AP

Iran admits killing writers

IRAN'S INTELLIGENCE Ministry has admitted that some of its renegade colleagues carried out the high-profile kidnapping and killings of several writers in early December. The rogue agents also ordered the stabbing to death of the country's secular opposition leader, Dariush Foruhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, on 22 November.

Iran's President, Mohammad Khatami, yesterday issued a message congratulating the ministry for its "honest" investigation of the murders.

The revelation is likely to help President Khatami's beleaguered reform programme which has encountered strong opposition from religious conservatives. He had demanded that the public be informed of developments in the case, no matter who was implicated, saying: "Our main asset is in the trust of our people."

Since his election in May 1997, President Khatami has made it his priority to establish the rule of law and control hardliners. However, there has been worsening political violence from die-hard Islamists, who fear for the fundamental principles of the 1979 Islamic revolution. Nothing has yet been said about the motives behind the murders of the dissidents, but it appears that the crimes were prompted by concern for the future of the revolution.

The affair has provoked calls for the resignation of the head of intelligence, Ghorban-Ali Dorrie-Najafabadi, who Mr Khatami is believed to have appointed to clean up the image of the ministry after the former head of the secret services was implicated in the 1992 assassination of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

t Iran's Interior Ministry said that an assassination attempt on Tuesday on Ali Razini, the head of the Tehran judiciary, was carried out by two people on a motorbike. Mr Razini was reported to be wounded by explosives fastened to his car.

By Borzu Arani
in Tehran

Yemen 'stalls' Yard kidnap investigation

YEMENI AUTHORITIES appear to be involved in a cover-up over the deaths of the four Western tourists kidnapped in Yemen. Scotland Yard detectives have been denied permission to interview the kidnappers' alleged leader, Zain al-Abdeen Abu Bakr al-Mehdar, who is also known as "Abu Hassan".

Last night officials in London described the Yemeni order to the two detectives to leave the southern Yemeni city of Aden as a bureaucratic "glitch" that had been countermanded by Yemen's Interior Minister. Hopefully, they would now be able "to go where they want and interview who they want".

Mystery still surrounds the assault by Yemeni forces on the kidnappers, in which three Britons and an Australian were killed. Despite claims by the Yemeni government that the kidnappers were unwilling to negotiate, Abu Hassan and his Islamic Jihad followers are well known to the government, which had been negotiating with them as recently as 40 days before the kidnapping.

They also have ties with the exiled Saudi dissident and suspected terrorist organiser, Osama bin Laden.

Abu Hassan is reported to have met with senior Yemeni military authorities in the capital, Sanaa, last November to secure funding promised by the government for Islamic Jihad's support in Yemen's 1994 civil war. But his request was refused, and in retaliation the group sought to increase pressure on the government.

Hence the kidnap of the 16 Western hostages on 29 December of whom four were killed in a rescue attempt.

A key figure in the story is Sheikh Tariq al-Fadhli, exiled after the Marxists took over South Yemen in the late Sixties and later an Arab volunteer in Afghanistan's war against the Soviet Union. He is a personal friend of Mr bin Laden.

Mr Fadhli is a Sheikh of the Maraqish tribe who inhabit the mountains of south Yemen where the recent kidnappings took place.

After the Afghan war, Mr Fadhli returned to Yemen, seeking revenge on the socialist party which had forced his family into exile. With financial support from Yemeni merchants in Saudi Arabia, Mr Fadhli built up a small tribal army. When Yemen's civil war broke out in May 1994, Mr Fadhli openly supported the northern forces, becoming a commander of the second brigade, made up of ex-Afghan mujahedin and tribesmen.

After the war ended, the victorious Yemeni president Lt-Gen Ali Abdullah Saleh rewarded Mr Fadhli by renewing his hereditary title of Sultan, restoring his family's extensive landholdings, and appointing him to the upper house of parliament, the consultative council. But if Mr Fadhli joined the establishment, his followers – including Abu Hassan – did not.

Today, Abu Hassan may well hold the answers to the central questions about the kidnap.

He also knows a lot about official Yemeni involvement in the affairs of Islamic Jihad and for that reason it is small wonder the authorities seem unwilling to let him spend any time with the men from Scotland Yard – and would far prefer to see him swiftly executed.

By Eric Watkins


Osama bin Laden, who has ties with the kidnappers

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 7 January 1999

Blair told to apologise for Boer War

TONY BLAIR arrived in South Africa last night to demands that he apologise for the deaths of thousands of women and children in British concentration camps during the Boer War 100 years ago.

South Africa is about to commemorate the centenary of the war, in which 20,000 to 26,000 Boer civilians died in overcrowded camps from typhoid, dysentery, enteric fever and

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN
in Johannesburg

other diseases. More than three-quarters of the victims were children. Last week the right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party – Herstigte means "reconstituted" in Afrikaans – called on Mr Blair to apologise.

On arriving at an air force base near Pretoria from the Seychelles, where they had been on holiday, Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, met the Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, who is expected to succeed President Nelson Mandela after next year's elections. Meanwhile, anti-British demonstrators gathered outside the guest house where the Blairs will be staying.

During the visit Britain hopes to announce £4bn of private investment in South Africa. In exchange, Mr Blair is hoping to finalise £1bn of already negotiated defence orders. But, while an agreement of intent is expected to be signed by Mr Blair and his South African counterparts today, confusion surrounds the reciprocal package of British foreign investment. While South African media reports this week said Britain will invest £4bn in local industries as part of the deal, the Ministry of Defence says the final figure depends on detailed trade discussions which have not been finalised. Asked about the figure of £4bn, a spokesman for the MoD's Defence Export Services Organisation (Deso) admitted: "I first read that in the papers this week."

The proposed defence package consists of four Westland Super Lynx marine helicopters, 24 British Aerospace Hawk jet trainer/ground-attack aircraft and 28 Gripen medium fighters, manufactured by British Aerospace and Saab of Sweden.

Excluding the Swedish component of the deal, the total benefit to Britain will be £1bn, part of a £3bn South African re-armament package which also involves the purchase of German corvettes and submarines and Italian helicopters. South Africa's arms spending has brought criticism from disarmament and humanitarian bodies, which question why so much is being spent on weapons when much of the country's population remains deeply impoverished.

The government has sought to justify the package by pointing to growing instability in central and southern Africa and claiming that counter-investment from the successful bidders will more than compensate for the cost of the weapons.

Yesterday a spokesman for Deso said that, while the £4bn figure was doubtful, the final investment package would easily exceed the South African government's minimum requirement, which was for direct investment at least equal to the cost of weapons supplied.

Enigmatic heir to Mandela

FOR FOREIGN leaders visiting South Africa, President Nelson Mandela may still be the man to be seen with, but his deputy president and heir apparent, Thabo Mbeki, is the man to see.

Tony Blair's meeting with Mr Mandela in Pretoria today is sandwiched between backroom sessions with Mr Mbeki, who now seems certain to lead South Africa into the post-Mandela era following elections this summer.

Having dined in private together last night, the Prime Minister and Mr Mbeki, 56, come together again today at a closed meeting of the British-South African bilateral commission, the body charged with improving links between Africa's biggest economy and its largest source of foreign investment. Keen to foster trade and finesse South African support on a range of Commonwealth, African and global issues, Mr Blair will want to get to know South Africa's *de facto* prime minister and future ruler.

He faces a difficult task. In South Africa the term "enigmatic" has become almost a cliché when applied to Mr Mbeki, while caricaturists have little to work on except his trademark pipe and goatee beard and his repeated references to an ever-imminent "African renaissance". Unlike the ebullient Mr Mandela, Mr Mbeki has never worn his heart on his sleeve and his private character – and personal history – are largely unknown.

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN

Even the deaths of his brother and his only son, who both disappeared in exile, remain obscure.

The son of the veteran African National Congress leader Govan Mbeki, who spent time on Robben Island with Mr Mandela, Thabo Mbeki went into exile in 1961 and took an MA in economics at Sussex University. Although he subsequently underwent military training in the Soviet Union, he has never confirmed or denied

With the Mandela miracle drawing to a close, the really hard work will fall to Mbeki

reports that he once belonged to the South African Communist Party – then as now a close ally of the ANC – and served on its polithuro.

Always noted for his intelligence, learning and eloquence, Mr Mbeki served as an ANC representative in London and various African states before becoming right-hand man to the party's then president, Oliver Tambo. Following Mr Mandela's release from prison in 1990, he was a key member of the ANC team negotiating an end to white rule with the then president, FW de Klerk.

In 1994, Mr Mbeki finally emerged from the shadows of his powerful patrons when he supplanted Cyril Ramaphosa, the brilliant and popular young trade union leader, as the ANC's candidate for deputy president, a job that almost guaranteed eventual succession to the presidency. Although little known to the mass of black voters, Mr Mbeki has used his closeness to Mr Mandela and his leadership of the ANC's "exiles" – the influential group of cadres who spent the struggle years abroad – ruthlessly to outflank famous figures from the internal struggle like Mr Ramaphosa and the former Free State premier, Patrick "Terror" Lekota.

His skill at coalition-building also played its part: at several key junctures many political observers were surprised to see the moderate Mr Mbeki gaining the support of leftist and "Africanist" radicals like Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and the ANC Youth League.

Economically, Mr Mbeki has endeared himself to the West with his unswerving dedication to free-market policies and globalisation, even as South Africa's economy is suffering from a bad dose of Asian flu.

However, his detractors worry that he may find it all too easy to change his tack if circumstances conspire against him. Acting as Mr Mandela's prime minister, Mr Mbeki has centralised both government and party power in his own office, ruthlessly sidelining anybody who stands in his way.

Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's president-in-waiting, is noted for his intelligence, learning and eloqnence *Adil Bradlow/AP*

While business welcomes his present economic policies, it also worries that he could be tempted to try to buy off political pressure by manipulating the economy to his own ends.

The black majority also wonders about Mr Mbeki. While support for the ANC remains at better than 50 per cent, the voters admit they know little about the man who will lead the party into almost certain victory at the next election. In October, many ANC supporters were dismayed when Mr Mbeki tried and failed to block the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, apparently stung by its mild remarks about the movement's role in the bloody struggle against apartheid.

The move enraged the commission's chairman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu – who told world television that he had not fought one tyranny to replace it with another.

Yet for all their concerns, the great majority of South Africans accept that Mr Mbeki will be the next president and hope that he can build on Mr Mandela's success. As the economy moves into recession, he will be expected to fight rampant crime and reduce soaring unemployment. He will have to end the simmering civil conflict with Zulu nationalists and find money to improve health, education and other public services. With the Mandela miracle drawing to a close, the really hard work will fall to Mr Mbeki.

Finland flirts with the West under a Tsar's nose

FRONTLINE
HELSINKI

YOU HAVE to hand it to the Finns. They have spent much of the last two centuries trying to secure, and then preserve, their independence from Russia. They fought a war against the Soviet Union and lost chunks of territory. Yet it is Tsar Alexander II, not a great Finnish oational hero, whose statue adorns Senate Square, the most elegant site in old Helsinki. And even now, when the Cold War is over and no one owes Russia any favours, they're going to leave him there. Which helps explain the debate raging in Finland about whether to join Nato.

Let it be said that Alexander, as a colonial master, was pretty decent. He permitted the Finns their own currency and promoted the use of their language. Eveo so, times have changed. "Finlandisatioo" – that dirty word of the Cold War denoting a status somewhere between Soviet satellite and fully independent state – is a distant memory, and Finland is a member of the European Union.

Leave Senate Square and the city's old quarter, with its neo-classical façades and pastel colours so reminisceot of Russia that they were used as sets for Cold War spy films, and you could be in downtown Europe. The feel is of Hamburg, Oslo or Berlin. Even Stockmann's department store has lost its thrill. Once, for generations of Moscow-based diplomats and correspondents, the Helsinki store was the promised land, a source of Western luxuries an overnight train trip away. Now it's just a Nordic Selfridges.

In short, Finland has become normal – a founder member of the euro, with growth of 5 per cent last year and a forecast 3 per cent for 1999. Inflatioo is minimal, while the economy is no longer in thrall to what happens in Russia. "We have come of age," the Prime Minister, Paavo Lipponen, says. "With membership of the EU, Finland has reached its goal in post-war policy."

And yet the Bear – eveo today's enfeebled, limping beast – still casts its shadow. The national border which captures the Finnish imagination is still the 800-mile one to the east, the only direct frontier of an EU state with Russia. Had geography beeo otherwise, Finland would long have been a member of Nato. Instead, Helsinki is once again doing a nifty diplomatic double act.

Just as during "Finlandisation", when it beamed benign neutrality in the direction of the Russians but steadily strengthened its integration into the Western economy and institutioos, Finland is now edging closer to the alliance without saying so. Mr Lipponeo could not be more guarded: "We're relatively satisfied with the current situation, and not considering Nato membership. Technically we're non-aligned, hut non-alignment actually impties the option of joining."

In practical terms, Finland is inexorably streogthening ties with the alliance. Its weapons programmes, most notably a recent purchase of 64 F-18 fighters in preference to Swedisb Saab Gripens, are mainstream Nato; this year it allocated $1ho for a Finno-Swedish rapid reaction force. Helsinki is also involved in Partnership for Peace, often seen as an antechamber before full Nato membership.

"The parties are engaged, but a wedding day has not yet been set," the defence minister, Anneli Taina, has said. The *Helsingin Sanomat* columnist, Rusto Uimonen, likeos the process to an electric plug inching towards a socket: "Suddenly, almost without noticing, we're plugged in."

The reason to plug in, of course, would not be security (for even a hostile Russia will not be a realistic threat for decades) but the changing realities of European defence. Nato's mandate is, if anything, broadening in the aftermath of the Cold War, and it may be expanded further at the April summit in Washington marking its 50th anniversary, which Finland will be attending.

But there is one problem: the Baltic states. Tbe burning desire of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia to join Nato is well known, and Finland feels responsibility for them, especially for Estooia – linguistically, culturally and geographically so close, and where Finnish companies have invested heavily. Alas, as Helsinki is aware, the three are neither ready to become Nato members, nor acceptable as such to Russia.

So what price the next Nato enlargemeot taking in incoovenient suitors like the Baltic states, Romania or countries from the former Yugoslavia, hut those three pillars of prosperous oeutrality, Finland, Sweden and Austria? That is what some in Helsinki expect.

But maybe there's another answer. A couple of years ago, the former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd proposed a oew Baltic security zooe comprising Finland, Sweden and the Baltic states, and underpinned by guarantees from Nato and Russia, to hring Europe's oorth-eastern corner under the alliance's umbrella without upsetting Moscow. Little bas since beeo beard of the idea. But Alexander II himself, if not Yevgeny Primakov, would probably approve.

RUPERT CORNWELL

A statne of the old colonial master, Alexander II, adorns Senate Square, bnt leave old Helsinki and the atmosphere is decidedly European

Rebels in battle for control of Freetown

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A DESPERATE battle for the capital of Sierra Leone was raging last night as rebel troops fought their way to within a mile of the centre of Freetown, capturing a main government office building and burning down the city's police station. It was unclear last night who controlled the city, though rebels could be seen moving through the all-but-empty streets, according to witnesses contacted by telepbone.

Troops from the Nigerian-led Ecomog peace-keeping force yesterday launched counter-attacks backed by fighter jets.

The rebels' military commander, Sam Bockarie, said his men would agree to a ceasefire if the government released Foday Sankoh, the rebel leader sentenced to death.

Speaking by satellite phone from his hideout, he said: "If Sankoh is released and handed over to us we are ready to cease fire." He claimed President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah – the leader reinstated last year with the help of British mercenaries – had fled Freetown.

There was no independent corroboration of his claim, though there were reports that the city's main prison had been broken into and renegade soldiers freed.

One witness said rebels had also burnt down a police station and the State House, the symbolic seat of power. It was unclear last night how close the rebels were to Hastings airport, Freetown's main transport link with the outside world.

Earlier this week, Ecomog troops fought off a rebel offensive at the airport, which is close to a peace-keeping base. The government last night said that while the rebels had entered parts of the capital its forces were still in control.

Speaking on BBC radio, the Information Minister, Julius Spencer, said a curfew had been imposed and that anyone found on the streets after dark would be shot. "The situation is very serious but it is going to be dealt with," Mr Spencer said. "Apparently this is happening [the invasion of the city] and the rest of the world is standing by and watching."

Britain, Sierra Leone's former colonial ruler, has committed £1m of financial and logistical support for Ecomog, the coalition of West African states fighting in support of President Kabbah.

Last night, a Foreign Office spokesman insisted: "Our involvement will be to provide equipment and logistical support as requested by Ecomog. We are not sending troops or advisers." The Ministry of Defence also said there were no personnel involved in the deal.

President Kabbah was restored to power last year after being ousted by rebels led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma in May 1997.

Efforts to reinstate the President were supported by Sandline, the British mercenaries whose shipment of arms and men breached international sanctions and triggered a crisis at the Foreign Office.

At talks in the Ivory Coast last month, representatives of Sierra Leone, Nigeria, the United States, Britain and Ecomog accused neighbouring Liberia of aiding the rebels. The Liberian President, Charles Taylor, received guerrilla training in Libya with Foday Sankoh, who was sentenced to death in Sierra Leone for treason last October after leading attacks on the government.

Last week, President Taylor admitted that Liberians were fighting in Sierra Leone but denied they had any link with his government.

The presence of the rebels within Freetown represents a marked change in their fortunes after they seemed to have been beaten back by government forces in recent months.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

EDS creates 1,000 Sheffield jobs

UP TO 1,000 jobs are to be created in Sheffield by the US information technology group EDS. The company is setting up a new services delivery centre at the city's Hallamshire Business Park, initially creating 300 IT jobs. There are plans to recruit a further 700 employees in the longer term.

A third of the workforce will be trainees, either apprentices, graduates or people looking for a career change. David Blunkett (pictured), tha Secretary of State for Education and Science and a local MP, welcomed the investment and EDS's commitment to take on so many trainees.

GUS granted takeover appeal

GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES has been granted an appeal by the Takeover Panel regarding its complaint over claims made by the former board of Argos during last year's hostile takeover bid.

The panel executive has already considered GUS's claims and ruled there is no case to answer. This still stands. However, GUS has been granted the right to appeal to the full panel, which will decide whether the executive's findings should stand or the case be heard again. The hearing is expected in the next few weeks.

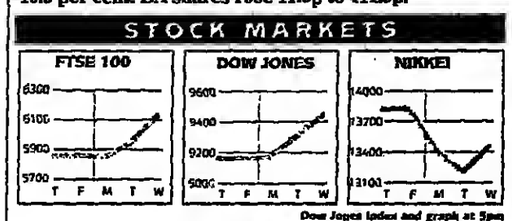
Sunderland's car-making record

NISSAN'S Sunderland car plant, the most productive in Europe, built a record number of vehicles last year. A total of 288,838 Micras and Primeras was produced by the 4,200-strong workforce – a 6 per cent increase on 1996 output.

BA sees fall in premium traffic

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday warned there would be no npturn in demand for first class travel this year, as it announced that December's premium traffic fell by 3.6 per cent. The fall was compensated for by a 12.9 per cent rise in economy class traffic for overall growth of 10.5 per cent. BA shares rose 11.5p to 411.5p.

STOCK MARKETS

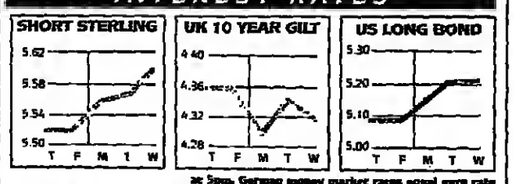


Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6148.80	190.60	3.20	6183.70	4599.20	2.62
FTSE 250	4944.40	74.20	1.52	5970.90	4247.60	3.42
FTSE 350	2886.60	82.70	2.95	2969.10	2210.40	2.74
FTSE All Share	2781.31	77.22	2.86	2886.52	2143.53	2.79
FTSE SmallCap	2110.00	20.30	0.97	2793.80	1834.40	3.86
FTSE Fledgling	1166.10	9.00	0.78	1517.10	1046.20	4.32
FTSE AIM	804.70	1.20	0.15	1146.90	761.30	1.25
FTSE Eurotop 100	2924.12	65.58	2.29	3079.27	2018.15	87.11
FTSE Eurotop 300	1261.32	30.12	2.45	1332.07	880.63	0.99
Dow Jones	9464.39	152.17	1.63	9380.20	7400.30	1.62
Nikkei	13468.46	235.72	1.78	17352.95	12787.90	1.08
Hang Seng	10233.80	342.74	3.47	11926.16	6544.79	3.44
Dax	5443.62	189.71	3.61	6217.83	3833.71	1.58
S&P 500	1265.51	20.51	1.65	1248.81	912.83	1.25
Nasdaq	2308.68	57.31	2.55	2251.77	1357.09	0.30
Toronto 300	6804.00	144.40	2.17	7837.70	5320.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	7253.10	145.22	2.04	12339.14	4575.69	6.76
Belgium Bel20	3681.92	2.22	0.06	3695.96	2357.78	1.77
Amsterdam Exch	583.66	17.15	3.03	600.65	366.58	1.68
France CAC 40	4294.82	94.04	2.24	4404.94	2809.73	1.88
Milan MIB30	37807.00	390.00	1.04	39170.00	24175.00	1.07
Madrid Ibex 35	10650.70	202.90	1.94	10989.80	6869.90	1.68
Irish Overall	5382.35	201.09	3.88	5581.70	3732.57	1.25
S Korea Comp	612.36	13.81	2.31	612.38	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	...	37.80	1.34	2693.70	2386.70	3.12

INTEREST RATES

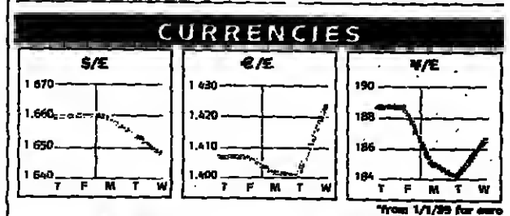


at 5pm. German money market rates equal euro rate

MONEY MARKET RATES / BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.12	-1.50	5.59	-2.03	4.32	-1.77	4.29	-1.78
US	5.06	-0.66	5.09	-0.72	4.79	...	5.22	...
Japan	0.55	-0.24	0.57	-0.17	2.03	0.18	2.80	0.32
Germany	3.22	-0.39	3.20	-0.73	3.78	-1.43	4.62	-1.15

CURRENCIES



*from 1/1/99 for euro

POUND

	at 5pm	Change	*Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6498	-0.76c	1.6202
Euro	1.4242	+2.31c	...
Yen	186.87	+¥2.83	217.53
£ index	99.20	+0.50	104.90

DOLLAR

	at 5pm	Change	*Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6062	+0.28p	0.6172
Euro	1.1564	-2.00c	...
Yen	113.23	+¥2.05	134.17
$ index	103.40	+0.20	110.60

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Mgs
Brent Oil ($)	10.49	0.34	15.02	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold ($)	287.65	0.80	280.85	RPI	164.40	3.00	159.61	Jan
Silver ($)	5.15	0.24	6.02	Base Rates	6.25	7.25		

Oil at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.5647	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.67
Austria (schillings)	18.65	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0089
Belgium (francs)	55.13	New Zealand ($)	2.9576
Canada ($)	2.4337	Norway (krone)	11.96
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7905	Portugal (escudos)	271.87
Denmark (krone)	10.24	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0186
Finland (markka)	8.1475	Singapore ($)	2.6472
France (francs)	8.9664	Spain (pesetas)	227.19
Germany (marks)	2.6839	South Africa (rands)	9.0823
Greece (drachma)	443.17	Sweden (krone)	12.90
Hong Kong ($)	12.41	Switzerland (francs)	2.2161
Ireland (punts)	1.0722	Thailand (bahts)	55.26
Indian (rupees)	63.12	Turkey (lirasi)	502574
Israel (shekels)	6.3895	USA ($)	1.6135
Italy (lira)	2658		
Japan (yen)	182.47		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0189		
Malta (lira)	0.6022		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

FTSE shrugs off fears on economy to roar past 6,000

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

SHARE PRICES leapt in London yesterday as merger mania and hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates again outweighed further economic gloom.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to reduce the cost of borrowing either today, after its monthly meeting, or next month. This would be the fourth cut in UK interest rates since October.

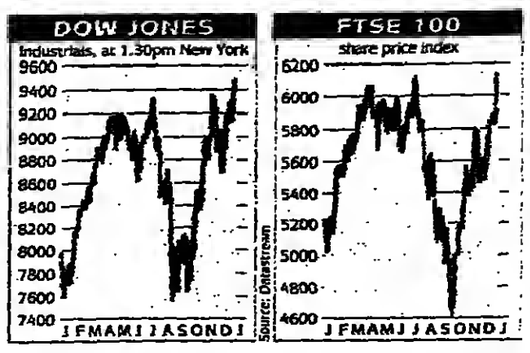
A third day of euphoria on some continental exchanges following the successful launch of the euro boosted London. So did the fact that Wall Street reached a new high in early morning trading in New York.

A prediction of a stock market crash of 20 to 30 per cent and subsequent recession, made by Barton Biggs, the prominent investment guru at Morgan Stanley, did nothing to dampen the fizz.

The FTSE 100 index ended nearly 191 points, or 3.2 per cent, higher at 6,148.8. This took it back through the 6,000 level and within 30 points of its July all-time high of 6,179.

In the rest of Europe, Frankfurt saw the biggest gain, the DAX index climbing 3 per cent, and the CAC 40 index in Paris rose 2 per cent. Several markets were closed for a holiday.

The Dow Jones soon passed its previous peak of 9,374.27, and had gained more than 151 points to stand at 9,462.33 by midday. In the US the surge in share prices was again linked to investors pouring money into computer and technology-related shares, which have been the main beneficiaries of the traditional January inflow of funds to the market.



But some voices continue to warn that the share price bubble must burst. Andrew Smithers of Smithers & Co warned that it "risks becoming a catastrophe". But Wall Street shrugged off such fears. "Investors are ready to load back up," said Robert Froehlich, chief strategist at Scudder Kemper Investments.

Microsoft, Lucent and MCI were among the big price gainers. So was Amazon.com, the Internet bookstore: its shares soared 12 per cent in early trade after it said fourth-quarter sales quadrupled to almost $250m (£150m), with a million new customers signing up.

The battle between Vodafone and Bell Atlantic for AirTouch Communications sparked hopes of other telecoms takeovers. The car industry is another where the prospect of merger activity has boosted investor enthusiasm. Shares in DaimlerChrysler, VW, BMW, Renault and Peugeot rose on the grounds that overcapacity and economies of scale in the single European market make a fall in the number of car makers inevitable.

London shrugged off the latest gloomy report on the economy. The survey of the services sector by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed a decline in business for the second successive month. The index also showed a fall in employment in December for the first time since the survey was launched two years ago.

The only sector to show any growth in new business was computing and information technology. Overall, one in four of companies surveyed said their workload had fallen in December. Although the mood remained upbeat, with optimism improving for the third month running, the survey was weaker than analysts had expected.

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "This will keep up the pressure on the MPC to ignore the temptation to wait and see this month."

Percy accepts reprimand on Young affair

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

KEITH PERCY, the former head of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, warned yesterday that chief executives of City firms will have to appoint outside lawyers to second guess their compliance departments after accepting an official reprimand for his failure to prevent serious irregularities in the management of two of the firm's retail funds.

The two funds – the Morgan Grenfell European Growth and Capital Growth unit trusts – had to be bailed out to the tune of £400m by MGAM's parent, Deutsche Bank, in 1996.

Peter Young, who managed the funds, faces criminal charges, while five other senior MGAM managers have been suspended for periods of 16 months to three years.

As part of his settlement with Imro, the fund management watchdog, Mr Percy will pay £84,200 to cover investigation costs and will contribute to the disciplinary costs. In return, Imro has agreed to restore his registration with immediate effect. He will join the board of Société Générale Asset Management alongside Nicola Horlick, his former MGAM colleague.

Mr Percy said yesterday he had agreed to settle in order to avoid delays and added costs associated with a full tribunal hearing. Although his case had been due to be heard next week, Mr Percy had been told that a final ruling was unlikely before March. "I have agreed to settle so I can return immediately to the fund management industry.

"If I had been offered a reprimand two years ago I would have been annoyed, but I probably would have accepted it. I was the chief executive with overall responsibility."

Mr Percy said that with hindsight he accepted he should have questioned the findings of the internal investigation more strongly and established a parallel investigation.

He added: "The implication of this judgment is that only by calling in external legal advisers will a CEO be protected from the risk of censure by the regulator, even though they may be in no better position to identify fraudulent behaviour."

Mr Percy, who was first alerted to problems in the two funds in April 1996, said that at the time he believed he was entitled to rely on the work of Morgan Grenfell's compliance department, at the time seen as a model for other City firms.

A spokeswoman for Imro said: "We have recognised that [Mr Percy] was one step removed and had not been an active fund manager for two years, and that was why he got a reprimand and not a suspension, but he should recognise that with those warning bells it was like being run over by a fire engine."

Keith Percy accepted a reprimand over the Peter Young affair at MGAM, but said only external legal advisers could protect against the risk of censure *Mark Chilvers*

Allied Carpets ends merger talks

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ALLIED CARPETS, the struggling carpet retailer, attempted to draw a line under past problems yesterday when it said it had ended discussions with potential buyers after failing to attract any formal offers.

Allied had been approached by up to three potential bidders, including Carpetright, Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, and Belgo, the company run by entrepreneur Luke Johnson. But offers fell short of hopes, so Allied has taken down its "for sale" sign.

Although the group's shares fell 7p to 41p on the news, Allied Carpets' management put a positive gloss on events. Julian Lee, chairman, said the ending of the talks closed a damaging period of uncertainty.

He added that following the £12m sale of 29 Carpetland stores to Carpetright, the company could concentrate on improving the core business. A statement said this would focus on improving sales densities in existing stores, further cuts in overheads and cash generation.

Mr Lee said the climate in the carpet sector was still difficult. "The market is as tough as every retailer is saying. There isn't any consumer confidence. It is very much in the hands of the Monetary Policy Committee."

Allied Carpets will speed up its search for a new finance director following the resignation last year of David Pout, who quit after accounting problems. Allied has appointed a search agency to seek a replacement.

In December it emerged that Allied Carpets had received an expression of interest at 67p per share from Carpetright, but Carpetright dropped its interest having been told by the Office of Fair Trading that its bid was likely to run into regulatory problems due to the scale of the combined companies' market shares.

Carpets have been among the hardest hit of retail products as shoppers shy away from larger purchases. Shares in Carpetright have also fallen sharply, although it reported improved sales last month.

Hewitt snubs building societies' plea

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday turned down a call for changes to building society laws which have failed to protect seven societies from hostile votes designed to force them to become banks.

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government was opposed to changing the Building Societies Act in spite of protests that it allows just 50 individual members to force a de-mutualisation vote at societies with millions of members. "What I think would be wrong would be to prevent members from coming forward at all with a conversion proposal, because building societies belong to the members and it is part of the democratic ethos that they should be allowed a say," Ms Hewitt said.

The rebuff is a blow to heads of building societies, seven of which may be forced to hold votes on de-mutualisation proposals by April. The proposals were lodged last week by Michael Hardern, the eccentric "carpetbagger in chief", and Stephen Major, a plumber from Lisburn, Co Antrim.

On Radio 4's *Today* programme, Ms Hewitt said: "It is very irritating for building society boards to have to go through this all the time but it is part of the process. One could say the same about takeover bids."

Building societies complain that the rules are disruptive to their business because a 2.5 million-strong society can be held to ransom by just 50 members, or 0.002 per cent of the vote. Shareholders at a listed company need 10 per cent of voting shares to force a vote. Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "We will continue to point out that 50 individuals being in a position to manipulate a 2.5 million-strong society is too small a number."

Chief executives of the eight societies facing conversion proposals – Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Yorkshire, Leeds & Holbeck, Skipton, Coventry, Chelsea and Portman – held an unprecedented meeting yesterday to thrash out legal methods of stopping carpetbaggers.

While Bradford & Bingley will go ahead with a vote in April, the other societies believe Mr Hardern's proposals may be flawed in law. They are seeking a legal opinion which may allow the proposals to be struck out.

Mr Hardern's resolutions call on the societies' boards "to take immediate steps to convert to plc status and distribute free shares to members". This may clash with a 1974 legal decision, *Hinksmott v. Woolwich*, which stops members using resolutions to interfere with the running of a society.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS enjoyed their second best gain with Footsie surging 190.6 points to 6,148.8, only 30.2 from the peak hit in July last year. Trading was often hectic, with turnover approaching 1.5 billion shares, the second most busy session the stock market has experienced. Supporting shares also enjoyed their best sessions for weeks. Institutional buying was behind the surge. Many fund managers, sidelined recently, decided it was time to chase equities. Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

WALL STREET reached a new record, rising 160 points to 9,471 by midday, driven up by heavy demand for blue chips and optimism in European markets as well as prospects of further megamergers. Rising consumer confidence and record new home sales boosted sentiment.

Merger candidate AirTouch gained a further $4.375 to $79.375 and Bell Atlantic rose $1.32 to $177.82. The Nasdaq also hit fresh highs, led up by Intel, Cisco Systems and Microsoft.

TOKYO

SHARE PRICES in Tokyo rose for the first time in 1999 after the yen's recent rise levelled out and bond prices also stabilised. The Nikkei ended the day 235.72 points or 1.78 per cent higher at 13,468.46.

Motor stocks continued to climb. Honda gained 150 to 3,660 yen and Nissan 22 to 356 yen as speculation concerning takeovers continued, although both companies denied involvement. Bank stocks also recovered, but blue chips eased, reflecting selling by foreign investors.

HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG INDEX closed 342.74 higher at 10,233.80, a gain of 3.5 per cent, as hopes of a further cut in interest rates rose and shares rallied in Tokyo.

Foreign investors were said to be buying interest-sensitive stocks, including banks and property groups. Telecoms and trading stocks also firmed but the overall mood remained cautious. At Nomura Kevin Chan expects more companies to freeze or cut salaries next month.

FRANKFURT

THE EXTRAORDINARY optimism generated by the success of the euro's launch continued to drive shares higher. The blue-chip Xetra DAX closed more than 3 per cent up at 5,442.90, its highest level since 21 August.

Demand for telecoms and car stocks was strong. Deutsche Telecom shares gained 6 per cent and Mannesmann touched 124.79 euros before closing 1.9 per cent up at 118.5. DaimlerChrysler rose 6.6 per cent and BMW 5.9 per cent on merger hopes.

Why the hiccup could help cut rates

OUTLOOK

ARE INTEREST rates much too high? The TUC thinks so, calling for a 1 per cent cut from the Monetary Policy Committee today and another 1 per cent by the summer. Most of industry would go along with this. The economy is slowing rapidly, there are no inflationary dangers on the horizon, and the pound is still too high for comfort.

What's more, the euro-friendly policies of our Labour Government point towards much lower interest rates too. Euro interest rates are only half the level of UK rates and likely to be cut further soon because of ominous signs that the big continental economies are slowing again. Reducing the differential between UK and euro rates, along with the need to get the pound to a more comfortable level, is a key part of preparing the British economy for joining the single currency.

So it would seem to make sense to adopt a oew inflatioo target based on the harmonised index of consumer prices (pleasingly known in the City as "the hiccup"). Not only would this symbolise Britain's hoourable intentions towards the euro, it would also allow more room for interest-rate cuts without risking the inflatioo target.

As things stand, the policy framework wouldn't allow a rapid convergence of short-term interest rates with Euroland, even though economic conditions could scarcely be more conducive to it than they are now. The straitjacket of the Government's inflatioo target, as defined by the retail price index, makes any such leap impossible. However, if the target is redefined using the hiccup, then it becomes much easier.

The UK's "harmonised" inflation rate is only 1.4 per cent, well below the 2 per cent ceiling adopted by the European Central Bank as equivalent to price stability. A switch from a 2.5 per cent RPIX target to a 2 per cent target for the harmonised index would obviously allow for a quite significant loosening of policy.

Politically, that is bound to be seen as something of a climbdown for the Chancellor, tantamount to admitting that he has allowed the newly independent Bank of England to be too tough on the economy to date. He's therefore going to think long and hard before going this route. Oo the other hand, Wim Duisenberg and his ECB colleagues can hardly be seen as the sort of people who play fast and loose with inflation. If the Government is going to do it at all, now's the time.

Imro/Keith Percy

KEITH PERCY used to be one of the stars of the investment managemeot scene. Under his watch, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management became one of the largest and best-performing mooey managers in the City, attracting tens of billions of pounds in new funds. Then along came Peter Young and destroyed Mr Percy's career, as well as profoundly damaging his company.

Few people in the City feel anything but sympathy for what happened to Mr Percy. "There but for the grace of God go I," many said privately. Mr Percy had faith in Mr Young, and he trusted the procedures he had established to ensure compliance. He was mistaken on both counts. But neither Mr Percy's undoubted talents nor any sympathy we might feel for the blameless skipper absolve him from responsibility for what happeoed.

Mr Percy makes some good points in the statement he released after accepting Imro's official reprimand. Chief among these is that but for the fact that he is a relatively rich man, able to afford the legal costs of fighting the regulators, he would be facing much tougher disciplinary action – including a fine and prolonged ban. This is plainly unfair oo those unable to fight their corner, as some of his more heavily punished colleagues were. As it is, he has had to bear some of Imro's disciplinary costs.

But Mr Percy surely protests too much about the oppressive powers of financial regulators and the blamelessness of his position. Curiously, many commeotators have come to accept what he says, forgetting that the proper function of regulation is not to safeguard the rights of practitioners but to protect the interests of investors.

Let's just remind ourselves of the facts of this case. The Peter Young affair cost MGAM's parent company, Deutsche Bank, more than £400m. Were it not for the largess of the German parent, investors in Mr Young's trusts would have suffered catastrophic loss.

The most important part of a fund manager's job, it might reasonably be thought, is to ensure that his clients' money does oot go walkabout. This Mr Percy obviously failed to do. Worse, he failed to show adequate cognisance of the warnings he received of Mr Young's untoward behaviour, preferring instead to delegate responsibility to his compliance department.

Mr Percy offers plenty of excuses for this and many of them are good ones. On the other hand, you do not allow the skipper whose ship goes down with all hands to sale again, do you, even if he was oot directly responsible for failing adequately to batten down the hatches. Mr Percy has fought a good campaign and everyone wishes him well in his oew job at SG Asset Managemeot, but it is not in the best interests of the City to allow negligence of this sort to be swept under the carpet.

LucasVarity

THERE ARE more ways than one to skin a cat. Having failed to get shareholder approval to relocate LucasVarity from Birmingham to Buffalo, New York, Victor Rice, its chief executive, seems intent on achieving his goal of a New York listing by other means.

The preliminary merger discussions that LucasVarity's chief executive has entered into with a variety of rival US car components groups, led by TRW, look designed to achieve the same end.

Who would bet against Mr Rice getting his way? As even a strong-minded chairman like Ed Wallis discovered, when Mr Rice puts his shoulder to the wheel, there is little option but to push with him, jump out of the way or risk being flattened.

The arguments advanced in favour of securing a US-listing – that it would improve LucasVarity's stock market rating and give it easier access to capital – always looked a little tenuous. There is oo shortage of US appetite for LucasVarity stock right now and as the French car parts maker Valeo has shown, a New York listing is not a prerequisite for a top-notch rating.

Still, Mr Rice obviously feels more at bome oo the other side of the pond, and by hook or by crook, he seems determined to have his company based there. Unfortunately it is not clear that the merger plan has any more to commend it than the straight switch of domicile approach. Whereas the "merger" of Varity and Lucas in 1997 never pretended to be anything other than a US takeover of a once great but faded British engineering name, on this occasion the boot will be on the other foot.

Bar none, the suitors Mr Rice is talking to are bigger than he is, which means he risks negotiating from a position of weakness. There is talk that LucasVarity may stitch up a series of alliances with several partners. But if further cost-cutting in an increasingly competitive world is the real name of Mr Rice's game, theo the cleanest deal is a straightforward takeover. The danger is that in his desperation to cut one and with it his move back to Buffalo, he will allow his shareholders to be disadvantaged.

News Analysis: In a fundamental shift in buying power, the bargain-hunting consumer now holds the whip hand

Shoppers put the squeeze on the high street

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

NEXT, the fashion retailer, appeared to buck the treod of high-street gloom yesterday when it issued an upbeat Christmas trading statement and said its end-of-season sale had been "satisfactory". News that its retail sales in the 21 weeks to 24 December were 13.5 per cent higher than last year from 11 per cent more selling space pushed the shares up 10 per cent.

But most retail analysts still expect the overwhelming majority of major store groups to issue disappointing sales updates in the next few weeks. "We expect Next to be the exception," said Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities.

What is going on here? Is it really sufficient to blame shrivelling coosumer confidence and rising fear of redundancy for the high street's woes? Or are there more fundamental, structural issues at work?

There is no doubt that Britain's retailers are struggling. Although Next's sales rise looks encouraging, it was achieved against weak figures last year followed by a profits warning in March. And elsewhere in the sector yesterday the news was not so good. Allied Carpets ended discussions with potential bidders because offers were too low, while the British Retail Consortium's Shop Price Index for December showed that prices oo a range of most commonly bought goods were 0.6 per cent lower than this time last year. It said the second consecutive month of falling prices represented the start of a deflationary trend.

The "feel-bad" factor" is weighing against official figures showing that Britain is relatively well off compared to the start of the last recession. The savings ratio is higher, and weekly disposable income is still comfortably up year-on-year. Sales of certain items show that if the product or service is attractive, consumers will flock to it in droves.

Figures this week from the mobile phooe operators showed soaring subscriptions over Christmas. Leading players such as Vodafone, Orange and One-2-One added an astonishing 2.5 million oew customers in the final three months of the year, many in the form of Christmas gifts. Other oew technology products are also doing well, such as digital cameras and wide screen digital televisions.

But why is the rest of the high street in such a parlous state? As with most crises, a combination of factors is at work. Apart from the obvious – weak consumer confidence – these include: a shift in pricing psychology; a change in buying trends towards services rather than consumer goods; lack of inspiration and innovation oo the high street; over-supply; and an increase in competition from other channels such as mail order and the Internet.

Take prices. After decades of shopping with an inflationary mindset, consumers and shopkeepers are having to live with a new concept – that prices will not oecessarily go up, and that they might even come down. This has the effect of deferring some purchases, particularly big ticket items such as furniture and carpets.

"No one wants to pay full price anymore," says Mr Bubb of SG Securities. "The media coverage of rip-offs, whether it is right or wroog, has got through to consumers. We have all become much more bargain conscious." Paul Edwards, managing director of the Henley Centre, the forecasting group, agrees. "People aren't stupid. If it is anything big, they buy it in January."

The shift has been underlined by the trend this Christmas to give vouchers as presents so that the spending power goes further in the sales.

Mr Edwards adds that this shift in pricing psychology has moved pricing power from the retailer to the consumer, who oow has the whip hand.

A more gradual but fundamental problem for the high street is the shift from coosumer goods towards services. Although yesterday's purchasing managers' index showed a dip in activity in the services sector, the annual study of family expenditure undertaken by the Office for National Statistics shows an underlying trend towards higher spending on services.

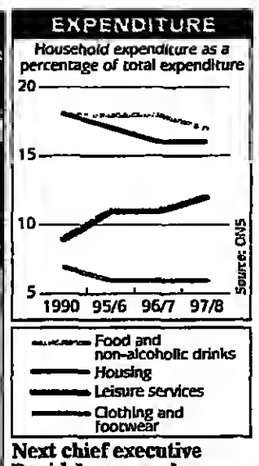
In 1991 leisure services accounted for 9 per cent of household expenditure. Last year that had risen to 12 per cent. In the same period the proportion spent on clothing and footwear fell from 7 per cent to 6 per cent, while the share of spending oo food, alcohol and housing also fell. These figures move with glacial slowness, but there is no denying the trends.

A lack of inspiration on the high street is another problem. According to Nathan Cockrell, retail analyst with BT Alex.Brown, Britain's retailers must do more to inject an element of theatre and glitz into their stores. "Whenever I go to America I am struck by how many more exciting places to shop there are. They deliver service and an experience few match in this country.

"The problem is that when times get tough, companies tend to get more conservative which is going in the wrong direction. If you are going to tempt people to come to your shop rather than spend money in a restaurant or cinema, you have to provide something exciting," says Mr Cockrell.

Over-supply and an increase in competitioo are other difficulties. Britain is already considered "oversbopped", but more retail developments come oo stream, sooo such as the massive Bluewater Park in Kent, which opens in March.

As if all this were oot eoough, traditional retailers face the prospect of more competition from mail order and the Internet. Arcadia, the former Burtoo multipfes division, distributed 47 million mini-catalogues last year. And the oew M&S home furnishings catalogue landed on doormats yesterday. As Mr Cockrell states: "Life for the bricks and mortar retailers is going to get tougher and tougher."



Next chief executive David Jones can be happy with the clothes retailer's Christmas, but few other major store groups are expecting a happy new year as consumer confidence ebbs and competition intensifies

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
ABN AMRO Pembroke Ltd					
Growth&Income	231.25	245.51	3.61	3.27	5.00
Equity Income	148.53	157.14	2.57	4.64	5.00
Growth	346.25	367.36	4.61	0.92	5.00
High Income	57.74	61.43	0.15	7.33	5.00
GlobalGrthAcc	105.45	112.18	0.53	0.51	0.00
AIB Govett Trust Ltd					
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HX					
Tel: 0171 378 7979					
American General	226.02	237.90	3.05	0.17	5.00
American Sm Cos	111.95	(Mid)	1.28	0.00	0.00
American Strategy	173.45	184.57	3.92	0.00	5.50
Asia Pac	64.94	69.22	3.11	1.99	5.00
Balanced Exempt	152.22	159.94	0.00	2.15	3.00
Cash	9.55	9.63	0.00	6.35	0.50
Conv & Sal Ex	175.57	179.33	5.22	2.57	0.00
Corporate Bond	87.47	93.31	-0.11	6.66	3.25
European General	466.22	493.20	5.07	0.00	5.50
European Strategy	209.03	224.67	6.71	0.00	5.50
FTSE Mid 250 Index	103.00	108.96	3.69	1.83	5.50
Geared UK Index	24.34	25.53	0.74	3.75	5.50
Global Strategy	44.00	48.02	0.98	0.00	5.00
Greater China	161.03	172.29	7.69	0.00	5.50
International Growth	197.47	211.11	3.81	0.17	5.50
Japan General	105.30	111.09	-0.74	0.00	5.00
Japan Tracker	124.55	(Mid)	1.13	0.00	1.00
Latin American	60.36	64.55	1.11	0.00	5.50
Money Market	100.05	100.55	0.00	0.00X	5.00
Monthly Income	44.13	47.16	-0.56	7.96X	5.50
Pacific	126.34	(Mid)	3.67	0.00	7.00
Pacific Strategy	86.47	92.42	-3.46	0.00	5.50
UK Bear	4.12	4.35	-0.14	5.75	5.50
UK Equity General	438.63	465.16	8.02	1.86	5.00
UK Equity/Safeguard	115.49	123.52	2.49	2.02	5.50
UK Index	19.45	20.53	0.61	5.75	5.50
UK Safeguard	142.83	152.27	0.00	0.00	5.50
UK Smaller Cos	82.25	87.56	0.22	0.50	5.50
US Bear	3.42	3.61	-0.08	4.00	5.50
US Equity Safeguard	95.08	101.06	0.24	0.60	5.50
US Index	29.04	30.59	0.58	4.50	5.25
AXA Sun Life Fund Mgrs					
AmerGrowthAcc	147.50	155.80	1.60	0.00	5.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Portfolio Acc	391.40	416.20	9.80	1.50	5.00
Portfolio Inc	200.00	212.80	5.00	1.50	5.00
UK Growth	157.60	168.00	5.20	1.10	5.00
UK Growth & Inc	95.86	96.64	2.95	2.20X	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	119.10	129.70	0.50	0.50	5.00
Charity Fund					
OverseasGrthEx	83.97	83.91	0.74	0.10	0.00
Britannia Fund Managers Ltd					
AmericanGrthAcc	182.59	190.20	1.67	0.00	4.00
AmericanGrthInc	179.10	186.66	1.64	0.00	4.00
BalancedGrthAcc	248.40	258.75	8.27	0.71	4.00
BalancedGrthInc	208.37	217.06	0.94	0.71	4.00
EurpnGrowthAcc	281.33	293.05	1.28	0.00	4.00
EurpnGrowthInc	275.44	286.91	1.26	0.00	4.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	120.57	124.94	-0.13	6.59X	3.50
Gilt&FixedIntAcc	157.82	163.55	-0.16	6.59	3.50
Higher Yield Acc	136.54	142.23	2.23	3.30	4.00
Higher Yield Inc	80.61	83.97	1.31	3.30X	4.00
Intl Spec Opps Inc	226.13	235.55	3.26	0.00X	4.00
IntlSpecOppsAcc	226.37	235.81	3.26	0.00	4.00
Japan	38.94	40.56	-0.10	0.00	4.00
Japan Acc	38.94	40.56	-0.10	0.00	4.00
Managed Portfolio	67.78	70.60	0.84	1.33	4.00
ManagedPtfolAcc	71.73	74.72	0.89	1.33	4.00
Pacific Growth	103.33	107.63	2.73	1.28	4.00
PacificGrowthAcc	104.39	108.74	2.76	1.28	4.00
Smaller Cos	171.25	178.39	1.28	1.04	4.00
Smaller Cos Acc	195.43	203.57	1.57	1.04	4.00
UK General	137.93	143.68	2.72	2.44X	4.00
UK General Acc	157.05	163.60	3.09	2.44	4.00
CIS Unit Managers Ltd					
Environ	250.20	262.80	2.70	1.37X	5.00
UK Growth	307.80	323.20	6.10	1.28	5.00
UK Income	298.50	310.00	2.40	3.23	5.00
Canada Life Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Balanced	70.89	75.65	1.04	1.30	0.00
Bond	209.50	220.80	-0.10	4.40	0.00
European	149.50	159.00	1.90	0.13	0.00
Far East	185.79	198.70	5.30	0.87	0.00
General Acc	632.80	670.70	18.60	1.00	0.00
General Dist	315.70	334.60	9.20	1.00	0.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	49.38	51.89	-0.02	3.00	0.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Woolwich					
Growth	104.22	173.15	0.00	1.55X	4.00
Whitehall					
UK Growth Acc	58.99	60.94	1.64	1.60	5.00
UK Income Inc	54.00	57.75	0.00	3.20	5.50
Whittingdale Unit Trust Mgmt Ltd					
Challenger	100.73	115.46	2.40	0.71	4.60
Gilt Growth	102.30	100.90	-0.30	0.00	1.50
Gilt Income	56.12	56.99	-0.13	5.20X	1.50
ShortDatedGilt	139.00	141.00	-0.10	0.00	1.00
Sterling Bond	58.95	58.03	-0.06	5.70	1.50
USShrtDatGovtBnd	84.55	86.42	-0.06	0.00	1.00
Woolwich Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Corp Bond Acc	60.98	61.13	0.04	4.37	0.00
Corporate Bond	53.59	53.74	0.04	4.37	0.00
Intl Managed	78.12	82.95	0.94	1.45	5.00
UK StockMarket	149.00	159.20	0.00	1.81X	5.00

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What if Japan pulls the plug on the US deficit?

HAMISH MCRAE

America is now borrowing to pay the interest on its borrowings ... this is not a sustainable situation

THERE HAS, for several years, been a recurring nightmare that has disturbed the financial markets. It is that, for some reason or other, Japan would stop financing the US current account deficit (and by the same token, the fiscal deficit) and repatriate its funds.

Up to now nothing like that has happened. The US has been able to fund its current account deficit because other countries, in particular Japan, have been prepared to carry on investing in the States. Inflows on capital account have matched, or frequently exceeded, the outflow on current account.

As a result the US has been transformed from being the world's largest creditor nation to the world's largest debtor (see left-hand graph). However, the inward flow of capital postpooed any day of reckoning: those of us who believed that the current account deficit would eventually result in a dollar collapse have so far been proved wrong.

Meanwhile, the long US boom, now into its eighth year, has ended the other US deficit, the fiscal deficit. Rising tax revenues and falling welfare payments have succeeded where Congress failed.

Or so it seemed. The fiscal outlook remains benign but the external deficit has suddenly become a serious concern. One of the reasons for the sharp falls of the dollar in the last few days has apparently been a worry about the sustainability of the current account deficit.

Why does a problem that has been simmering for years suddenly blow up? There seem to be at least three reasons for this change of mood. First, the sudden further deterioration of the current account last year as East Asian exports to the US soared and exports fell. Second, the launch of the euro. And third, the surge in bond yields in Japan.

Last year the curreot account deficit was running at an annual rate more than $200bn – we don't have final figures but the third quarter was a deficit of $61bn. That is very large, of course, hut no worse as a percentage of GDP than it was in the late 1980s. There was, however a qualitative difference from the 1980s deficit. Quite aside from the trade deficit there was, for the first time, also a deficit on investment income. The interest on all those debts was now being added to the principal.

In other words, America is oow borrowing to pay the interest on its borrowings. You do not oeed a degree in international economics to appreciate that this is not a sustainable situation. Yesterday Goldman Sachs drew attention to this phenomenon, and used that word "unsustainable" – which is interesting, because up to now US commeotators have tended to be relatively relaxed about the mounting US indebtedness. They have seen the inflow of capital as a statement of faith in US competitiveness and stability (which of course it is), rather than a reflectioo that Americans live above their means.

The second new event is the euro. In theory the euro ought oot to make much difference to international investment patterns, for it is only the amalgam of the various European currencies. Anyone investing in it now could have achieved much the same effect by investing in marks, francs, lire and so oo in the appropriate proportions.

But in practice the euro does change things, because it creates a simple practical alternative to the dollar. Any non-US, oon-Europeao investor has another place to pop funds, backed by the output of an economy of more or less similar size to the States. And "Euroland" has a current account surplus too.

So expect some dollar weakness and some euro strength in the months ahead as portfolio managers gradually rebalance their portfolios.

Third, there is Japan. The Japanese, as noted above, have been the principal investors in the US and particularly in US Treasury securities. One of the forces propelling Japanese money is that it would earn a much higher return in the US than it could in Japan. Ludicrously low Japanese interest rates were the culprit. In the last six weeks, while short-term money market rates have remained very low, there has been a douhling of the yield available on Japanese government bonds – a rise from below 1 per cent to nearly 2 per cent (see right-hand graph).

To Americans and Britons, 2 per cent may not sound very much, but since deflation has a firm grip, the real yield is perhaps 3.5 per cent, which is actually higher than the real yield of either US or UK securities – or euro ones for that matter.

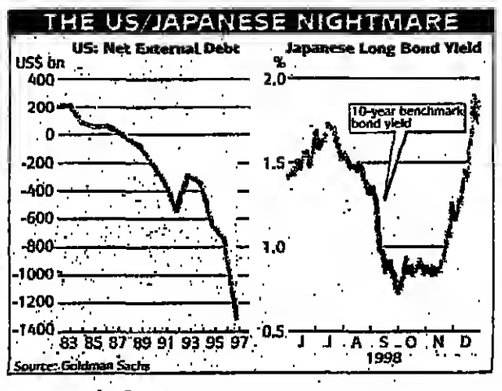
Add to this the oeed for Japanese financial institutions to sell liquid assets to repair their balance sheets after the devastation of bad debts, and suddenly there is a practical case for repatriating funds from America.

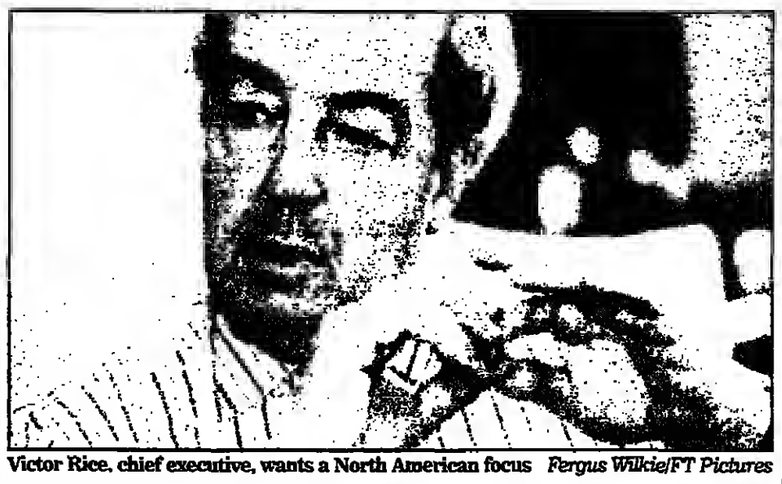
We are still some way from the doomsday scenario, where a withdrawal of Japanese funds leads to a collapse in US financial markets. Nevertheless it was significant that earlier this week, Eisuke Sakakibara, the Japanese Ministry of Finance official known as "Mr Yen", said that the US economy was "fairly hubble-like". That does oot quite constitute an instructioo for Japanese holders of US securities to sell, but it does indicate a rising concern in Japan at the durability of the long US boom.

There are a couple of rules that anyone trying to explain the movements of financial markets need to follow. One is that it is always very difficult to get the timing right – in fact you know you will get the timing wrong – so that eveo when something is inevitable you may have to wait years for it to happen. The other is that momentum is an immensely powerful force in markets, so that they tend to overshoot.

Put these two together and apply it to the Japan/US financial imbalance which has continued now for more than 15 years and what do you say? Simply that we may be moving at last into the end-game for the US current account deficit and that Japan will play the key role in the correction to come.

THE US/JAPANESE NIGHTMARE





Victor Rice, chief executive, wants a North American focus *Fergus Wilkie/FT Pictures*

LucasVarity seeks US alliance or merger

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

LUCASVARITY, the Anglo-American car components and aerospace group, is in talks with half a dozen US automotive suppliers about strategic alliances or even full-blown mergers.

The company, which failed last year in an attempt to move its stock market listing and headquarters to the US, confirmed yesterday that "preliminary discussions" were taking place with a number of companies.

LucasVarity aims to announce the results of the strategic review alongside its full-year results on 25 March, but it cautioned yesterday that there was was no certainty that any of its discussions would result in a definitive agreement.

Most attentioo has focused on a possible link-up between LucasVarity and TRW, the Cleveland-hased car components and defeoce cootractor. TRW makes airbags, seat belts, suspension components and steering systems, and its automotive divisioo has annual sales of $7bn.

But industry sources said discussions were taking place with at least five other US companies, led by Federal Mogul, which took over the British car parts group T&N last year, Tenneco, Dana and Borg Warner.

LucasVarity is also thought to be examining the possibility of deals with Visteon and Delphi, the car components arms respectively of Ford and General Motors, both of which are due to be spun off as separate companies this year.

Following the defeat of his plans to relocate to the US, Victor Rice, chief executive, has redoubled his efforts to refocus LucasVarity on the North American market.

Mr Rice argues that a New York quotatioo would improve the rating of LucasVarity shares and make it easier for the group to raise capital and finance expansion by issuing new shares. LucasVarity's strategy is to expand its presence in vehicle dynamics, which embraces brakes, chassis, suspension and steering. About half its £3.4bn of automotive sales comes from braking systems.

At one time LucasVarity's aerospace divisioo was a cootender for disposal hut Mr Rice is on record as saying: "The more I look at our aerospace business, the more I like it."

Outlook, page 15

IN BRIEF

Albright issues profits warning

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the chemicals company, issued a profits warning following tougher-than-expected competition in the European phosphates market. The company said it would cut more than 50 jobs from its UK operation, which employs 2,000 people. Full-year profits would be hit by a slowdown in the market for surfactants, the strong pound and the Asian crisis, Albright said.

Houses still safe

THE HOUSING sector is still in fairly good shape despite recessionary gloom, and results from Alfred McAlpine, the housebuilding group, will be in line with expectations after "a further year of significant and sustained progress", said Oliver Whitehead, the chief executive, yesterday.

Earnings per share have beeo enhanced after buying back 7 per cent of the group's shares last autumn. The shares rose 7.5p to 156.5p.

Jet firm takes off

COMPANIES that want to hoost their corporate image with a private jet hut cannot afford the cost of huying one are to be offered the chance to lease one under an innovative oew scheme. Corporate Aircraft Leasing Ltd, a joint venture of Capital Bank and Guernsey-based aviation group Exxtor, is to offer operating leases to the private husiness market.

CALL plans to buy at least 50 aircraft worth $500m (£350m) over the next four years.

Vodafone and AirTouch bosses meet

SENIOR VODAFONE executives are scheduled to meet counterparts from AirTouch today for their first face-to-face encounter since the UK mobile phone giant proposed a $55bn (£33m) takeover of its US rival, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The meeting will take place amid rampant speculation that Bell Atlantic, the acquisitive Baby Bell, is poised to raise its offer for AirTouch. Bell Atlantic has reportedly tahled a bid valuing AirTouch, the world's largest mobile phone group, at $45hn. But this was beaten by an all-share offer from Vodafone believed to value the company at more than $90 a share.

Ken Hydon, Vodafone finance director, is understood to have flown to the US last night with a team from Goldman Sachs, the group's financial advisers. Chris Gent, the chief executive, is thought to be following the negotiations from New Zealand where he is attending a board meeting.

Shares in AirTouch jumped a further $2.50 to $79.75 in early trading yesterday. In Loodon, Vodafone dipped 21.5p to 1,089p although other telecoms stocks, including Cable & Wireless and Orange, posted strong gains.

Analysts believe that other US telecoms groups could enter the bidding.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Burndene Investments (F)	101.82m (91.31m)	8.28m (6.0m)	6.05p (4.05p)	2.50p (2.05p)	15.02.99	18.01.99
Proceal International (I)	*32.579m (28.925m)*	*1.964m (1.939m)*	*8.65p (8.87p)*	*2.60p (2.60p)*	*29.01.99*	*11.01.99*
Allied Textile Co. (F)	206.6m (231.7m)	16.5m (16.3m)	18.7p (16.6p)	10.0p (5.7p)	06.04.99	01.03.99

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 7 January 1999

MAIN MOVERS

RISES

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Benchmark	152.50	21.00	16.00
Wyko	92.50	12.00	14.90
Standard Chr	794.00	94.00	13.60
Sema	694.00	75.00	12.70
Albert Fisher	6.75	0.75	12.50
Api	387.50	42.50	12.30
Hays	548.50	52.25	10.50
Pace Micro	97.50	9.00	10.20
Taylor Nelson	97.50	9.00	10.10
Mksys	523.25	46.75	9.81

FALLS

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Lasmo	92.00	-8.00	-8.00
Abbot	190.00	-12.50	-6.49
MMT Comput	848.00	-52.50	-5.80
Boden Macle	58.00	-3.50	-5.69
Dixons	797.50	-40.50	-4.83
Johnston Pre	202.50	-10.00	-4.71
New Look	152.00	-7.00	-4.40
Smith & Neph	176.50	-8.00	-4.34
BICC	68.50	-3.00	-4.20
Thorntons	200.00	-8.50	-3.91

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
Telewest	261.65m	Fortune Oil	20.67m	Centrica	14.34m	Lloyds TSB	11.59m
Vodafone	43.70m	MV Sports	16.00m	Scottish Power	13.33m	Orange	10.44m
BP Amoco	43.42m	Gallaher	15.40m	Royal & Sun All	12.16m		
Asda	32.15m	Imperial Tobacco	15.39m	BG	12.07m		
Brit Telecom	27.0m	Tesco	15.19m	London Ind	11.91m		
Shell Transp-Reg	22.91m	WPP	15.0m	Reed	11.68m		

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5958.2		11:00	6073.9	Up 115.6	15:00	6128.2	Up 170.0
9:00	5958.2	Up 0.0	12:00	6100.5	Up 142.3	16:00	6129.5	Up 171.3
10:00	6049.4	Up 91.2	13:00	6108.9	Up 150.7	Close	6128.0	Up 170.0
			14:00	6110.4	Up 152.2			

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

INDEX-LINKED

PERPETUAL

SHORTS

LONGS

MEDIUMS

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: Ex rights: x Ex-dividend: a Ex-all, s Suspended, p Partly Paid, no Nil Paid; Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics.
Source: Bloomberg

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For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288.
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RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Ambient Media	46.5	-1.0
Coca-Cola Beverages	115.0	1.5
Estemar Prop	181.0	0.0
ICC Computers	240.5	-2.0
JWE Telecom	195.5	22.0
Quantica	64.5	-8.0
Selectors	48.5	0.0

source: Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com/uk

Footsie breaks into stampede

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

FOOTSIE SCORED its second-highest one-day gain in the second-busiest trading session on record. With institutional investors, domestic and foreign, chasing shares with what appeared to be a grim determination, the blue chip index burst through the 6,100 barrier, soaring 190.6 points to 6,148.8. It is now just 30.2 below the peak achieved in July last year.

The new year stampede was fuelled in part by New York's strength, with the Dow Jones Average hitting a high during London trading. Other world markets were in form, with the successful launch of the euro one of the factors behind their progress.

Turnover nudged 1.5 billion shares. It was swollen towards the close when, in what appeared to be a bought deal, 253.76 million Telewest Communication shares went through at 175.25p.

Suddenly, it seemed that institutions, sidelined last month by the festive season and the run-up to the euro, were awash with cash. If they were unable to buy into any of the currently fashionable Footsie areas, such as drugs and telecoms, they were content to alight on any blue chip so long as the asking price was not too outrageous.

Such was the clamour that even some of the long-neglected second-liners found themselves in demand. The mid cap index jumped 74.2 to 4,944.4 and the small cap 20.3 to 2,110. Mind you, the market's under-card remains a long way from the halcyon days when the second and third-liners were really in demand. The mid cap index hit a 5,966.6 record in June last year and small cap peaked at 2,792.7 in May.

Footsie, however, displayed no inhibitions. It has been growing steadily stronger since sinking below 5,000 in October. The progress has accelerated in recent weeks, and after a subdued start on Monday the index has climbed more than 250 on the opening trading days of the year.

New year rallies are not unusual. But the rampant buying which has characterised the latest burst of excitement suggests that even more cash is sloshing around the system than many suspected.

The rush to indulge in share buy-backs in the past few years has reduced the pool of shares available and, of course, increased the wall of money.

There are indications that more Continental fund managers see London as an attractive home for their cash, and it is also suggested US fund managers, who parked cash in London ahead of the euro, have decided to invest at least part of their money in London rather than on the Continent.

Many market men, however, wonder whether some fund managers have lost their marbles. They point to some of the huge price movements and their herd instinct.

The computerised order book has increased share volatility. Perhaps it is responsible for some of the exaggerated movements but a 13.6 per cent gain, as Standard Chartered enjoyed, looks unrealistic when compared with the more modest movements which would occur not so many years ago.

Standard jumped 94p to 784p, with nearly 7 million shares traded. Bid talk was again in the air.

Suggestions of corporate activity, as well as hopes of lower interest rates today, were a major influence elsewhere. There are still expectations of more deals among defence, drugs and telecom shares.

The telecom activity was highlighted by the Telewest deal. It seems that Dresdner Kleinwort Benson picked up the shares from US group Cox Communications, which had around 12 per cent. DKB arranged to place the shares with institutions at 181p.

Colt Telecom, with talks of a bid swirling around, hit another peak, up 87.5p to 1,124.5p, and BT moved through 1,000p to reach 1,011.5p. Vodafone shaded to 1,089p as arbitrageurs, invariably active in transatlantic bids, took positions and analysts pondered the probability that Voders will have to contend with competition to win control of AirTouch Communications.

Reuters, supported by Warburg Dillon Read, gained 58.5p to 730.5p, but Dixons, downgraded by DKB ahead of next week's interim figures, missed the fun, falling 40.5p to 797.5p.

Still Next's encouraging trading statement produced some relief for retailers. The fashion chain rose 48.75p to 562.25p, and Marks & Spencer 11p to 419.5p.

LucasVarity's confirmation that it was in takeover talks gave the shares an 11.25p boost to 226.5p. Engineer BWI, the latest management buyout candidate, jumped 22p to 69.5p, and Avonside, a house builder, put on 10p at 50p as a potential bidder hovered.

Hopes of a higher offer from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries lifted Marston Thompson & Evershed, the Pedigree brewer, 8p to 197.5p.

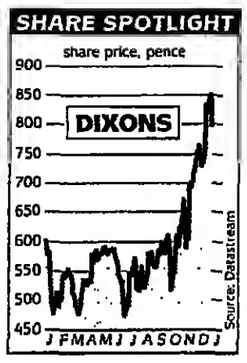
The collapse of talks at Allied Carpets cut the shares 7p to 41p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.47 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 83,372
GILTS INDEX: 116.15 -0.10

A LEISURE merger is in the air. European Leisure, the disco group, firmed to 72p on vague talk of a bid, possibly from Allied Leisure, unchanged at 25p. The shares of both have been caught in the leisure share fallout. There are also suggestions that Allied will buy European's 23.9 per cent stake in Waterfall, a snooker and bowling group, and then bid for the rest. Waterfall shares rose 3.5p to 64p.

HOUSE OF FRASER, the department store chain, looks vulnerable to a bid. There is talk it is having discussions with a possible predator. The shares firmed 2.5p to 57.5p in busy trading. They came to market at 180p in 1994 and have been as high as 228.5p. A trading statement is due shortly and there is speculation it could be accompanied by confirmation of the predator's interest.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Investment: Conventional valuations are no guide in this high-risk sector

Battered biotech shares are still the most highly rated

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

WHAT ARE the most expensive companies on the stock market? Ask that question to a handful of US investors and they will undoubtedly refer you to the Internet companies, whose shares have been soaring again in recent days. There are few real Internet companies in the UK, but British investors would probably plump for the telecom and computer stocks, which have been hitting new highs in recent months.

Take a look at the statistics, however, and a different picture emerges. We asked Hemmington Scott, the financial information group, to list the 20 companies in the FTSE All-Share index with the highest ratio of stock market value to revenues. (To avoid anomalies, we left out investment trusts and companies with a market capitalisation of less than £10m.)

To say the least, the results were surprising. The six most highly rated shares, and 12 of the top 20, were companies in the supposedly depressed biotechnology sector. Phytopharm, which specialises in developing medicines derived from plants, topped the list, even though its share price is below the level it reached almost two years ago. Based on sales of just £50,000 for the year to August 1997, the ratio of market value to revenues is a staggering 1,249.

Core Group, developing new methods of delivering drugs, comes second although its share price has slumped from over 200p to 40p in less than a year. And scandal-racked British Biotech takes third place with a market value to revenues ratio of 410.

Only one telecom stock, Colt Telecom, made it into the list, though with a market value of more than £6bn, the local network operator is by far the largest company in the table.

London Bridge Software, which supplies software to financial groups, made the list, as did Cambridge-based ARM, which designs specialised microprocessor chips for use in mobile phones and hand-held computers.

Valuations for biotechnology shares make the highly rated Internet stocks in the US – often presented as the height of investor folly – look positively cheap. America Online, the largest Internet group in the world, had revenues of $2.6bn last year and is valued at $69bn – a ratio of 26. Amazon.com, the internet bookseller that has taken the world by storm, is valued at 148 times its 1997 revenues.

And there is the catch. Earlier this week, Amazon said revenues for the final quarter of last year were $250m – more than it made in the whole of 1997. The figure shows the danger in taking a current market value – which discounts future prospects – and comparing it with past financial performance. For companies where sales are poised to explode, as in the case of biotech or Internet companies, conventional valuations soon become meaningless.

As a result, simple multiples of earnings and sales have been all but discarded by investors. They tend to prefer discounted cash-flow models, which carefully forecast a company's likely future performance and then express the value of future cash-flows in today's money.

So Phytopharm is highly rated because investors think its drugs have a good prospect of making it to market and cleaning up. The process may take a few years, but the rewards will be worth waiting for.

"It's like panning for gold," says Andy Allars, an investment manager with Prelude. "If you have a hit you make a fortune, but you could also lose your shirt." He adds that where biotechnology companies are concerned the potential benefits are much higher because the company will have a monopoly on any drug that successfully makes it to market.

Nevertheless, the table shows that when it comes to taking a lot on trust, biotechnology investors still take the biscuit.

THE MOST HIGHLY-RATED SHARES

Company	Activity	Price/Sales ratio
Phytopharm	Biotech	1,249
Core Group	Biotech	690
British Biotech	Biotech	410
Proteus International	Biotech	115
PowderJect Pharmaceuticals	Biotech	96
Celltech	Biotech	70
Torotrack	Engineering	56
Emerald Energy	Oil exploration	52
Oxfold GlycoSciences	Biotech	51
COLT Telecom	Telecoms	47
Cambridge Antibody Tech	Biotech	35
Carlisle Holdings	Property investor	34
London Bridge Software	Banking software	30
BTG	Patent development	29
Vanguard Medica	Biotech	50
ARM Holdings	Semiconductors	22
Oxford Asymmetry	Biotech	21
SkyePharma	Biotech	20
PPL Therapeutics	Biotech	20
Trafficmaster	Traffic monitoring	18

All companies in FT All-Share index with market capitalisation over £10m, excluding investment trusts.
Market value based on closing share prices on Jan 5th.
Source: Hemmington Scott

Wetherspoon toasts festive season

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

ANOTHER CONFIDENT trading statement yesterday from JD Wetherspoon, the Watford-based pub company, may turn into something like a hostage to fortune.

Wetherspoon's chairman, Tim Martin, probably thought he was taking part in an informal poll of the pub trade's fortunes over the Christmas and the New Year festive season. If so, his competitors were being much less forthcoming, and Wetherspoon's encouraging message sounded out alone.

Fourth-quarter sales apparently grew by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent, which was certainly well ahead of the market average. The upturn compared with a fall of 1 per cent in the third quarter, when Wetherspoon's sales were adversely affected both by the poor summer weather and by a drop in pub attendances during the football World Cup in June, for which Wetherspoon declined to cater by installing TV sets in their pubs. That decision alone cost an estimated £1m in lost profits.

The chairman claims that the recent recovery in sales is mainly due to the chain's emphasis on offering value for money, which makes it less vulnerable to a recession in spending than rival pub chains that charge higher prices to pay for atmosphere and entertainment.

But Mr Martin was unwilling to give a headline figure for sales growth including new openings, and he was even less forthcoming about profits or earnings after servicing the group's substantial debt burden. Analysts scaled down profit forecasts after the last full-year figures, which fell 10 per cent short of expectations at £20.1m. The outlook depends heavily on maintaining sales growth and holding down interest charges.

There was also something of a sense of *déjà vu* about the forecast of investing £100m and opening 80 new pubs this year, bringing the total estate to around 400 by the end of the year. It is an ambitious target for a group likely to be nursing £160m in debt by the end of the year, but it is no more than was forecast last September.

Analysts were reluctant to re-adjust their current forecasts of profits of £25.4m and earnings of 12.2p a share in the current year to 31 July, rising to £31.1m and 14.7p in the millennial year.

The share price, which has virtually halved in line with the sector over the past six months, was also slow to respond. Even at 177p yesterday, up 2p on the day, the shares are trading at 14.5 times the current year's and 12 times future earnings, which is a significant premium to most competitors.

Chairman Tim Martin says the group's pubs enjoyed a Christmas recovery, but the share price barely moved

Why the FSA is in search of a BLT

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE QUEEN has inadvertently forced over 1,000 staff at the Financial Services Authority to roam Canary Wharf in London's Docklands in a daily search for sandwiches.

Let me explain. The newly formed financial regulator is in the process of relocating all its staff to a gleaming new building in Canary Wharf. Around 1,000 are already there, including 400 banking supervisory staff who arrived last week from the Bank of England. Another 700 will arrive in coming months.

But they have nowhere to eat. The FSA's state-of-the-art canteen, designed to feed up to 2,000 people at one go, is still uncompleted, because the regulator's funds had to be switched to completing the building's reception area last autumn when the Queen announced she would be officially opening the building.

The reception area was completed ahead of schedule, but the canteen fell behind. At the beginning of December the FSA was forced to start paying staff £2.50 day in sandwich money, a total of £20,000 a week.

"It's just a temporary payment until the canteen opens," says a spokeswoman. Hence the crowds of regulators besieging Pret a Manger in Canary Wharf. As for the Royal visit, she added that there was "a lot of of republicanism around". I'm not surprised.

RUMOUR HAS IT that Martin Taylor, recently ousted from Barclays Bank, harbours ambitions to be the next editor of the *Financial Times*. After all, he rose to be editor of the FT's Lex column in the early 1980s before he left the world of journalism for that of commerce.

There is one problem with this rumour. The present incumbent, Richard Lambert, 54, shows no signs of wanting to leave. Mr Lambert recently returned from the US, where he led the successful drive to expand the pink 'un's American readership. Even when he does step aside, the FT has traditionally promoted its deputy editors to the top job.

The present deputy, Andrew Gowers, 41, held the reins in London while Mr Lambert was in the US. Robert Thomson, 37, currently editing the FT's US edition, is also well thought of.

So Mr Taylor faces stiff competition for the top job at the *FT*. Other rumours of his intentions are that he might serve the Government in the House of Lords, that he might join a think-tank, or that he might write a book.

THE VETERAN top-rated *commercial property analyst* Roger Moore retired from Warburg Dillon Read on Monday after a quarter of a century as an analyst. But he's not finished yet. Yesterday Mr Moore joined the board of Hemingway Properties as a non-executive director.

Hemingway, based in the West End of London, boasts the omnipresent Stanislas Yassukovich as its chairman. The company is run by two well-known operators, Michael Goldhill (chief executive) and Andrew Browne (finance director), who shared the distinction last year of being the highest paid directors in the UK property sector, trousering a handsome £1.6m each.

If Mr Moore can get in on that kind of action, he can look forward to a comfortable retirement.

THE MANAGEMENT team at Anita Roddick's Body Shop got an *infusion* of new blood yesterday with the appointment of Alastair Murray as finance director.

He joins the green toiletries company from PIC International (the Pig Improvement Company) where he was finance director of pet food producer Dalgety Food Ingredients for four years.

Jeremy Kett, Body Shop's current finance director, switches to the corporate finance division. The day-to-day running of the company's 1,640 stores has been left to Frenchman Patrick Gournay, headhunted from the yogurt firm Danone. He was joined by Rick Corcoran in November as head of human resources, joining from the US arm of Danone

IN BRIEF

Mowlem unit wins £24m deals

JOHN MOWLEM's facilities management subsidiary, Aqumen, has been awarded *four management contracts* due to start in 1999 with a total value of £24m a year, Mowlem's chief executive, John Gains, announced yesterday.

The contracts are with Barclays Bank, Anglia Polytechnic University, English Partnerships and the Health & Safety Executive.

Carrying out the four contracts will require an extra 150 staff in addition to the 1,000 Aqumen currently employs.

Swiss purchase

DOUGHTY HANSON, which claims to be Europe's leading *independent private equity* company, has agreed to acquire Tornos Bechler, based in Moutier, Switzerland.

Tornos Bechler is a leading manufacturer of high performance automatic *lathes for producing* precision turned machine parts. The existing management of the company will remain, and it is intended to float the business on the stock market within three to five years.

NU heads east

NORWICH UNION has been granted a licence to set up a company to sell pensions to private individuals in the east European country, Poland.

New regulations introducing personal pensions for individuals as a top up to the basic state pension are due to come into effect in Poland shortly.

Norwich Union intends to sell pensions directly to Polish citizens as well as through bank assurance and insurance company channels. The company will also use agents, Richard Harvey, the group chief executive, said.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro
UK	1.0000			0.6049	0.6055	0.6063	0.7024
Australia	2.6291	2.6270	2.6238	1.5905	1.5907	1.5909	1.8467
Austria	19.589	19.567	19.535	11.850	11.848	11.845	13.7603
Belgium	57.427	57.285	57.031	34.740	34.687	34.580	40.340
Canada	2.4966	2.4939	2.4904	1.5103	1.5101	1.5100	1.7536
Denmark	10.594	10.575	10.542	6.4085	6.4035	6.3920	7.4609
Euro	1.4237	1.4202	1.4139	1.1611	1.1628	1.1665	1.0000
Finland	8.4642	8.4437	8.4059	5.1203	5.1128	5.0968	5.9457
France	9.338	9.315	9.274	5.6490	5.6404	5.6230	6.5596
Germany	2.7843	2.7775	2.7652	1.6843	1.6818	1.6766	1.9558
Greece	459.05	460.91	464.26	277.70	279.09	281.50	322.44
Hong Kong	12.807	12.796	12.786	7.7477	7.7483	7.7527	8.9958
Ireland	1.1211	1.1188	1.1153	0.6782	1.4761	1.4788	0.7876
Italy	2756.4	2749.7	2737.4	1667.5	1665.0	1659.8	1936.27
Japan	186.80	185.87	184.16	113.01	112.55	111.67	131.210
Malaysia	6.2816	6.4128	6.6135	3.8000	3.8830	4.0100	4.4122
Mexico	16.146			9.7675			11.3410
Netherlands	3.1371	3.1295	3.1156	1.8978	1.8949	1.8891	2.2037
New Zealand	3.0729	3.0705	3.0666	0.5380	1.8592	1.8594	2.1584
Norway	12.375	12.398	12.437	7.4864	7.5074	7.5409	8.6925
Portugal	285.40	284.71	283.43	172.65	172.40	171.86	200.48
Saudi Arabia	6.1998	6.2048	6.2079	3.7506	3.7571	3.7641	4.3548
Singapore	2.7725	2.7622	2.7452	1.6772	1.6725	1.6645	1.9474
South Africa	9.4058	9.4837	9.6357	5.6900	5.7425	5.8425	6.6057
Spain	236.86	236.28	235.23	143.29	143.07	142.63	166.386
Sweden	13.211	13.180	13.125	7.9919	7.9804	7.9584	9.2794
Switzerland	2.3039	2.2942	2.2778	1.3937	1.3891	1.3811	1.6183
US	1.6530			1.0000			1.1611

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
		1.0000	Oman	0.6364	0.3850
Argentina	1.6530	1.2093	Pakistan	84.206	50.940
Brazil	1.9989	8.2795	Philippines	63.064	38.150
China	13.686	29.748	Poland	5.6584	3.4230
Czech Rep	49.174	3.4195	Qatar	6.0163	3.6395
Egypt	5.6526	2352.5	Russia	37937.5	22950.0
Ghana	3888.8	213.91	South Korea	1915.1	1158.50
Hungary	353.60	42.500	Taiwan	53.189	32.176
India	70.255	7462.5	Thailand	60.254	36.450
Indonesia	12335.9	0.3024	Turkey	525521	317910
Kuwait	0.4999	92.000	UAE	6.0708	3.6725
Nigeria	152.08				

INTEREST RATES

UK		Discount	5.25%	Repo(Ave)	3.40%
Base	6.25%	Denmark		Japan	
European Central Bank		Discount	3.50%	Discount	0.50%
O/N Marginal	3.25%	US		Switzerland	
O/N Facility	2.75%	Prime	7.75%	Discount	1.00%
Repo	3.00%	Discount	4.50%	Lombard	3.00%
Canada		Fed Funds	4.63%		
Prime	6.75%	Sweden			

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.81	-0.04	4.62	-0.04	4.69	0.01	4.84	-0.02	5.13	-0.03
Belgium	3.22	0.00	3.14	0.00	3.06	0.00	3.35	-0.03	3.95	-0.07
Canada	4.57	-0.01	4.78	-0.01	4.73	0.02	4.82	0.04	4.98	0.03
Euro	3.21	-0.01	3.17	...	3.03	-0.01	3.33	-0.01	3.78	-0.02
France	3.21	-0.01	3.03	0.00	3.12	0.04	3.37	0.00	3.84	0.00
Germany	3.21	-0.01	3.17	-0.01	3.03	-0.01	3.29	0.02	3.78	-0.02
Italy	2.49	0.00	2.17	0.00	3.16	0.00	3.39	0.00	3.94	0.00
Japan	0.31	-0.01	0.40	-0.04	0.64	-0.06	1.28	-0.09	2.03	-0.09
N'lands	3.21	-0.01	3.17	-0.01	3.17	-0.02	3.36	0.00	3.86	0.01
Spain	3.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	3.04	-0.06	3.24	-0.03	3.88	-0.03
Sweden	3.61	-0.03	3.44	0.00	3.47	0.00	3.62	0.00	4.01	0.00
S'land	1.34	-0.06	1.65	-0.04	1.49	-0.03	1.83	0.00	2.32	0.01
UK	5.60	0.00	5.59	-0.01	4.92	-0.03	4.48	-0.03	4.32	-0.02
US	4.34	...	4.32	...	4.64	...	4.61	...	4.75	...

MONEY MARKET RATES

	Overnight Bid	Overnight Offer	1 week Bid	1 week Offer	1 month Bid	1 month Offer	3 months Bid	3 months Offer	6 months Bid	6 months Offer	1 year Bid	1 year Offer
Treasury Bills					5.90	5.80	5.70	5.60				
LIBOR			6.11	6.11	6.19	6.19	6.12	6.12	5.84	5.84	5.595	59
Domestic Depos	5.00	6.13	6.06	5.94	6.06	7.06	6.03	6.97	5.78	6.72	5.536	47
Eurosterling Deps	6.13	6.25	6.13	6.25	6.09	6.16	6.00	6.06	5.72	5.78	5.475	53
Eligible Bank Bills					5.93	5.83	5.86	5.76	5.60	5.50		
Sterling CDs					6.11	6.03	6.04	5.96	5.73	5.63	5.495	39
Eurodollar CDs					4.93		4.97		4.97			
Euro Libor			3.24	3.24	3.23	3.23	3.21	3.21	3.19	3.19	3.173	17

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Mar-99	119.16	119.35	119.00	33603.00	104262.00
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	108.16	...	...	...	76.00
German Bund	Mar-99	116.74	...	...	...	...
Italian Bond	Mar-99	114.76	114.87	114.53	8040.00	35746.00
Japan Govt Bd	Mar-99	129.81	129.98	129.65	2403.00	...
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-98	94.40	94.44	94.39	36025.00	185572.00
	Jun-99	94.79	94.81	94.77	25426.00	179289.00
3 Mth Euromark	Jan-99	96.81	..	..	...	21811.00
	Feb-99	96.84	...	..	..	325.00
3 Mth Eurolira	Mar-99	96.89	96.89	96.88	2290.00	242605.00
	Jun-99	97.02	97.03	97.01	834.00	69551.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-99	99.32	...	..	...	..
3 Mth Euroswiss	Mar-99	98.45	98.48	98.42	10873.00	62650.00
	Apr-99	98.34	98.38	98.31	6793.00	34918.00
3 Mth Euro Libor	Jan-99	96.81	...	..	...	...
	Feb-99	96.83	..	...	..	..
FTSE 100	Mar-99	6195.00	6213.50	6010.00	31380.00	184619.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price: 6148.80

Series	Jan Call	Jan Imp Vol	Jan Put	Jan Imp Vol	Feb Call	Feb Put	Mar Call	Mar Put	Apr Call	Apr Put
6050	381	27	11	28	516	114	584	182	684	244
6100	335	32	15	27	478	126	546	194	643	252
6150	290	30	19	27	440	138	506	207	603	261
6200	248	30	27	28	401	150	470	219	564	273

ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Brent Crude($/barrel)Gas oil($/tonne)

IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	IPE	Close	Chg	Vol
Feb	10.77	0.24	30936	Jan	99.00	0.75	11115
Mar	10.83	0.11	27958	Feb	100.50	0.25	9250
Apr	11.00	0.09	6990	Mar	102.25		1792

WTI Crude($/barrel) Products($/tonne)

NYM	Last*	Chg	Spot CIF NW Eur*	
Feb	12.18	0.22	Gasoline 95	116.00
Mar	12.30	0.18	Naphtha	106.50
Apr	12.48	0.17	Gasoil	102.00
May	12.61	0.13	Fuel Oil (3.5%s)	54.50

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM

	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGYTD
Index	1970=100	134.88	1.35	1.01	215.26	-37.34
Agricultural	1970=100	187.53	1.55	0.83	231.23	-18.90
Energy	1983=100	44.73	0.38	0.86	85.86	-47.90
Ind Metals	1977=100	125.44	0.00	0.00	168.79	-25.68
Livestock	1970=100	144.26	4.59	3.29	191.03	-24.48
Prec Metals	1973=100	381.22	1.61	0.42	463.54	-17.76

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chgs
Aluminium HG	1224	1226	12.50	1228	1230	9	635350	-300
Aluminium Alloy	1020	1025	5.00	1050	1053	3	95960	-20
Copper A	1425.5	1426.5	16.00	1453	1456	15	599525	4725
Lead	480	481	4.50	465	466	4	109100	1525
Nickel	3870	3880	-40.00	3940	3950	-35	66120	-54
Tin	5015	5025	5.00	5010	5015	...	8295	30
Zinc	914.5	915.5	15.00	932	932.5	15	316925	-300

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins (£)		Year's chg
Platinum	360.00	-0.50	0.50	Platinum	216.85	-0.85	-3.05	Krugerrands	283.79	2.46
Palladium	324.75	-7.25	123.75	Palladium	195.65	-4.85	73.20	Sovs	66.56	
Silver	5.15	0.24	-0.87	Silver	3.09	0.13	-0.50	Nobles	386.05	
Gold	287.65	1.25	4.85					Maple Leaf	285.44	-13.90

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Soya Beans*	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	CBOT	$/bu
Mar99	911.00	Jan99	1820.00	Jan99	78.75	Mar99	250.00	Apr99	554.25
May99	932.00	Mar99	1747.00	Mar99	79.50	Apr99	328.00	May99	555.50
Jul99	948.00	May99	1690.00	May99	81.25	May99	341.00	Jun99	561.00
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
White Sugar*		Freight		Wheat		Corn*		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/day pt	LIFFE	$/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	ATA	$/25k kg
Mar99	252.30	Jan99	830.00	Jan99	77.75	Mar99	221.25	Jan99	40.00
May99	252.10	Feb99	850.00	Mar99	78.50	May99	227.50	Mar99	19.35
Aug99	249.60	Mar99	875.00	May99	80.50	Jul99	233.50	May99	41.00
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM

Feb	Live Cattle	(CME) $/40k lb	62.17	Mar	White Maize (SAF) $/100 mt 618.00
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME) $/40k lb	46.00	Jan	Rubber (TCM) ¥/5k kg 77.10
Mar	Orange Juice	(CTN) $/15k lb	100.80	Mar	Cotton (CTN) $/50k lb 60.20
Dec	Milk	(CSC) $/50k lb	..	Jan	Crude Palm (KLC) $/25 m 2225.00
Mar	Oats	(CBT) $/5k bsh	111.50	Mar	Soya Oil (CBT) $/60k lb 23.85
Jan	Flax	(WCE) $/20 m	331.80	Jan	Woollen Yarn (TCM) $/500kg 1165.00

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 7 January 1999

Stuart Alexander opens this two page special report on boating at the 1999 London International Boat Show

Big Blue has something for everyone

THERE IS nothing like a dose of sunshine to brighten an otherwise bleak British Winter. This year's London International Boat Show is hoping to do just that. The show's theme of Big Blue (ocean), is all part of a scheme to raise the temperature of the estimated 200,000 visitors, organisers hope to attract to London's Earl's Court. The marine industry wants to entice new people into the game, showing off everything from gleaming power boats selling at close to £2 million, right down to kits costing only a few hundred pounds.

It is also looking good for consumers. As well as being the biggest one-stop shop for all things boatey, clothes, equipment, electronics, and everything from a dinghy to a luxury cruiser, the show comes hard on the heels of two interest rate cuts, a strong pound making imports cheaper, and new European legislation giving extra protection.

The rather dull title of a Recreational Craft Directive conceals a new definition of stability for all coastal and offshore boats, which should be prominently displayed. The categories run from A to D, A though D is largely applicable to small boats and dinghies, and determine bow a boat is likely to perform in the conditions for which it is being sold. A for ocean, B for offshore, C for Coastal.

If you ever wanted to know why two 25-footers can be so different in price, check the stability grading is the one you need, check if the price includes VAT – all the attractive boards should prominently give the full, inclusive price – and you could even make sure that all the parts on the boat have the correct European certification mark. It is that first, apparently irresistible, price which can lure you into a tunnel in which it is difficult to turn round and back out.

What has not yet come, though but is only a matter of time, is any form of Europe-wide licenses, either to use boats, or for the boats themselves. While many European countries do insist of both written and practical examinations, Britain maintains its voluntary system, though there are increasing signs of statutory regulation for jet-ski users. Which means there will be lots of stands offering to teach you all the ins and outs, at home and abroad, complete with certificates at the end, which are accepted by the other European countries.

And the schemes extend to those with disabilities through the growing Sailability programme, once again driven by the RYA.

Having bought your boat and learned a bit about how best to use it, you may also wish to park it. This logical desire used to be a real nightmare and there are still many areas of the country where there are very long waiting lists for low cost, publicly administered moorings. One of the largest operators of marinas, with 5,500 berths nationwide, is MDL. Their marketing director Jeff Houlgrave expects prices to rise by about 6 per cent. in 1999, so an average 30-footer could cost just under £2,000 to keep in Plymouth and about double that on their most expensive marina in the Hamble River, close to the Solent.

But he points out that not only have amenities and service had to improve as customers demand more, they have also had to spend more on their infrastructure to meet the increasingly tight environmental legislation, and this he gives as the main cause for the rise above inflation.

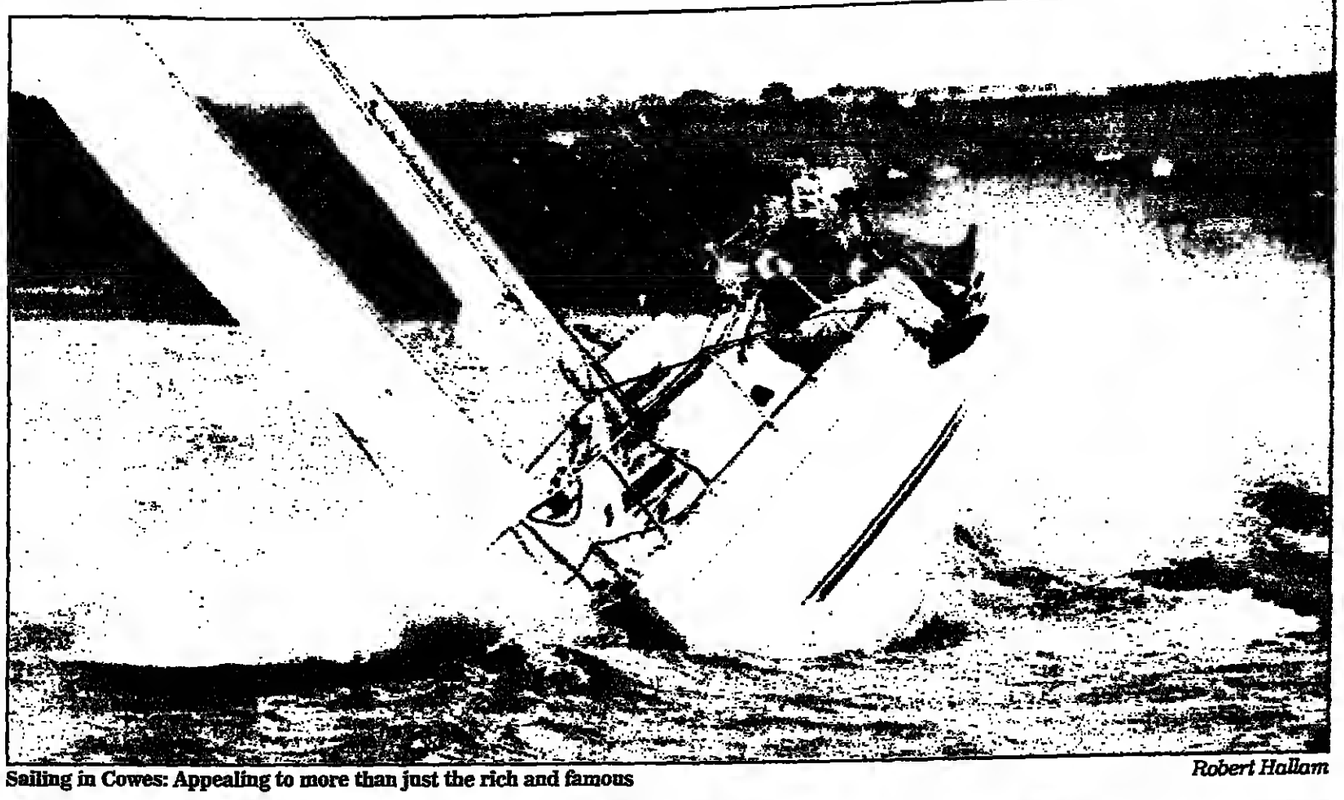
Mr Houlgrave also says there were many years when price rises lagged behind inflation as a whole section of the leisure industry coped with declining consumer confidence and the aftermath of stagflation. Perhaps holding down prices accounts for his reported 10 per cent increase in occupancy for each of the last four years. Now he would be prepared to tell the Chancellor, Gordon Brown he is optimistic that, at worst, while growth may slow, there will be no real downturn, and that by 2001 the pressure will be upwards again.

Which may be why one of the most popular sectors of new sailing boat sales is in the 40-foot range, and that means starting at about £100,000. And why the power boat market continues to flourish, taking about 75 per cent. of new boat sales in 1998.

That has persuaded Peter Poland, boss of one of the most enduring of British manufacturers, Hunter Boats, to produce its first motor yacht. Called the Landau and designed by his long-time collaborator David Thomas, it is 20 feet long, costs just under £20,000 all up, and has just won a design award. Not just for its use of space, but for environmentally friendly inputs such as minimal wake, a four-stroke outboard for coastal use, and an electric engine option for inland waterways and lakes.

As part if his assessment that interest rates are going to be driven down, Hunter has also arranged a 9.3 per cent. finance package, and it will be interesting to see what the finance houses are doing generally at the Boat Show. There are reported to many good deals on offer. Where there is dispute is over the effect of the high value of the pound. Some UK manufacturers can point to considerable consumer benefit at their expense as importers take a short term advantage that has lasted three years and considerably boosted their incomes. Others with a strong export heritage, like the big powerboat manufacturers - Fairline, Princess and Sunseeker - seem to be holding on to their European sales.

The show at Earl's Court will also highlight clothes that have made British manufacturers among the best in the world. The names of Henri Lloyd, Musto and Douglas Gill are to be found all over Europe and the United States as sports. If you can be persuaded to look the part, perhaps you can then be persuaded to act it, to try it, to enjoy it.



Sailing in Cowes: Appealing to more than just the rich and famous

Robert Hallam

big BLUE

45th London International Boat Show
Dates: 8 – 17 January
Location: Earl's Court, London
Times: 10am – 7pm (except Thursday 14 January, open until 9.30pm, and Sunday 17 January, closing at 6pm)
Prices: Adults £10.50; **Accompanied children** Free (two per paying adult), **Unaccompanied/additional children** £7.50; **Senior citizens** £7.50; **Group bookings** (10 or more) £7.50; Evenings only (after 5pm) £6.50;
Ticket hotline: 0121–767 4600

More choices available for sailing enthusiasts

BY STUART ALEXANDER

HOW LONG does it take before you can have a license to drive a boat? A very long time if the current thinking at the Royal Yachting Association persists. While other European countries have insisted on introducing formal qualification schemes, Britain has resisted, with the support of the Department of Trade and Industry, and has, instead, insisted that its voluntary scheme of learning produces better boat users.

However, there are many harbour masters who would like to see such a statutory scheme introduced, only if they could exercise the sanction of suspending the licenses on who could play the cowboy on their territory. And there is a particularly determined attack on the Jet Ski fraternity, a few of whom are causing serious attacks of nerves about the safety of others trying to share the same stretches of water.

But Britain has good cause to think that its system is working well. Its certificates of competence are accepted throughout Europe, and about 100,000 a year of them are issued. They are a bit like an international driving license and although the form of them is being renegotiated so that a new version will be available from 1 April this year (1999), the RYA hopes that holders of existing certificates will be able to continue to use them.

Nor is there any current move to license boats, not even to make third party insurance compulsory - insurers are more worried about theft - there is a growing number of people who want to have some sort of proof of competence, and quite a few feel that compulsion is only a matter of time.

THE IN'S AND OUT'S

There are 538 schools, large and multifunctional down to a one man one boat enterprise, which are recognised by the RYA. There are 121 of them in the UK ranging from the ever-popular but very tidal Solent to the quieter West Country and West of Scotland and, for those who like to tackle both tides and some shallow water, the East Coast, especially of East Anglia.

With all these choices, taking the plunge is being made easier and easier. Many schools offer a taster day, with all the kit provided. Courses can be split between going afloat in the summer and finishing off the work in the classroom in the winter. There are many motor boat courses and, as new motor boat sails far outnumber new sailboat sales, the authorities are very keen on the powerboat fraternity becoming as qualified

If conventional learning is not for you then, the school can come to you. Many powerboat owners take their courses on their own boats from qualified instructors. They range from a simple, two-day helmsman's course, which should set a few more minds at rest as they look over their shoulders apprehensively at 35 to 40 feet of gleaming white plastic charging into a crowded marina. It should also set more at rest the minds of the crew, who can be included in the course.

On a more advanced level there is a Day Skipper course, which includes some time in the classroom ashore, and a coastal skipper, which, as well as more complex navigation, also puts the skipper through all the functions of running the boat and its equipment.

Sail boats have their equivalent, starting with competent crew, but working all the way up to Yachtmaster Ocean, which should mean that you can handle an Atlantic crossing and will give you a government-backed skipper's ticket.

Windsurfers, of course, are in plenty of trouble if they need offshore navigation, but they will have safety included in any course which starts with the simple problem of standing up, making a 100-yard distance, turning round and coming back again.

That's why these crafts are so popular at the Mediterranean schools and holiday clubs; at least when, not if, you fall in the water is warm and there is usually some sun to warm you through. there are even some schools specialising in Sea Survival.

Simply put, if you want to get involved in sailing there is no better time than now.

Marine inspired fashion goes major

LOOK COOL, stay warm. And dry. One of the buzz words in fashion has, for some time now, been functionality and sailing clothes have been at the forefront of that trend, which has also seen sports clothes move from specialist shops and outlets to the rails of the high street majors.

It was British designers who took the European catwalks by storm and now, as the function angle begins to be picked up in Europe, so are British manufacturers like Henri Lloyd, Musto and Douglas Gill have been finding a ready market for clothes born out of a marine background. Nor, for once, is their any bleating about exports being rocked by the high exchange rate value of the pound. Daniel White, of Henri Lloyd, and Nigel Musto agree when they say that price and the pound are not the defining factors, but style and quality.

Musto also points to the integrity of the clothes on offer. "You cannot design and innovate new sports clothes from behind a desk," says Musto, who took to the sharp end in 1998 by completing, with Andy Hindley the two-handed Round Britain and Ireland Race in a 60-footer.

And this means, much more quickly than in motor racing or much more relevantly than buying an off-road vehicle, that the technical developments for specialist applications filter down to the average user much more quickly.

FASHION

One of those is in the choice of fabrics, where materials that both breathe, so reducing condensation on the inside, but which also keep the water out are in much more general use. "These fabrics are now beginning to have a much greater impact on a market where not only is there a lot of repeat business, but a tendency to replace a much-loved jacket with the same again," says White. "But these new materials are now coming in at mid-price and we hope people will begin to choose the new thing. But, as the Italians say, every year is a new painting, it's a real roller coaster out there. Hit it right and you are the golden boy; hit it wrong and you are history." He also knows he is, to some extent, in competition with other sports who want to persuade non-participants to buy their clothes and so look part of the scene.

As Musto points out, however, the clothes he is producing have to perform in the environment for which they are designed. The same clothes which must keep you warm when sitting doing nothing and dry when great dollops of water are being thrown over the bow of a yacht have also to allow you to work hard and unfettered. The trick has been to find the path between the bulk which would normally be associated with the first two and the light freedom preferable for the second.

For Musto that has meant incorporating some of the techniques developed for ocean racing into clothes for inshore racing. And those include making a smock, with seals at neck and wrists, instead of jackets, which needed all sorts of flaps and closures to keep those nasty rivulets of water trickling down the back of the neck. Gill, too, have produced a similar garment after using the American Whitbread Race entry Chessie Racing as a test bed.

That racing heritage continues for Musto with the launch at the Boat Show of the Pete Goss range. The link goes further than just clothes as Musto are major sponsors of Goss's entry in The Race, a no holds barred, non-stop dash around the world in boats of unlimited size and design and scheduled to start on 31 December 2000.

And Gill continues to back and provide the clothes for Britain's Olympic squad. All of which, says Liz Rushall, helps to reinforce the credibility of those clothes to High Street buyers. As she says, even someone walking the dog in the park wants to know that the technical features which led them to choose the clothes in the first place are genuine.

But there is still a steady market for a good set of oilies, trousers and jacket, with safety features that are not just harnesses, but colours and reflective patches that mean you should first stay aboard but second be more visible in the water if you go overboard. But for those who want really high fashion there is always Prada.

Comfortability and style are the focus in Henri-Lloyd's sportswear collection

Escaping to warmer climes now affordable

BY STUART ALEXANDER

WHATEVER THE January weather outside, there is always an attempt to bring some summer sun to the interior of Earl's Court and those who are selling the real thing, the holiday that is still six months away.

The idea of cruising in the Mediterranean goes back a long way, but was only available to the very few and, remarkably, the opportunity for middle Britain to go cruising abroad did not really happen until 1975/76. Lots of them went across the Channel and the North Sea, over to Ireland, up to Scotland. But the Med was too far for most to take their own boats, and if you did not have your own boat or some very friendly friends then you did not go.

Enter a man called Eric Richardson from East Grinstead, who is credited with being the founding father of Brits on Cruise in the Mediterranean, or Greece to be more exact, with the Yacht Cruising Association. He was followed a couple of years later by a company called Greek Sailing Holidays, with 12 boats. That company was eventually to become Sunsail and it now has 750 boats, making it, as the French-based Moorings has reduced its fleet to 700, the biggest of its kind in the world. Nearly all of that with UK customers.

In the early '80s Eric Richardson again led the way by persuading his customers that Turkey was a splendid option - and it still is today. The Dalmatian coast of former Yugoslavia followed, more companies developed their on packages and what in 1982 had already grown to a 200-boat pool has today blossomed to 10 times that amount at about 2,000. And Sunsail, which was selling about 10,000 package holidays a year in 1993, has seen sales rise to about 58,000 in 1998.

Which is less than a good day's worth of people through Gatwick. This is still a fairly exclusive little band and it is spreading itself even more thinly round the world as more and more destinations are added to the menu.

There are basically three types of holiday on offer, with the opportunity to learn bolted on. These are: chartering a boat and taking it yourself, known as bareboat charter, though the name misleads as more and more comforts are being demanded and supplied on even small boats. Then there is a flotilla holiday, where perhaps as many as a dozen

HOLIDAY MARKET

yachts cruise in company, all given a daily destination, following a leader who also makes arrangements for mooring overnight and trips ashore, and generally creating safety in numbers. And there is the club resort holiday, where you can just laze on the beach or try windsurfing, dinghy sailing, even mountain hiking when the mood takes you.

At home or abroad. There are still many opportunities to take the Swallows and Amazons road to the Norfolk Broads, or cruise the West Country, the Scottish islands, just about anywhere there is a decent stretch of water. And, for those with deep enough pockets and an adventurous bent there are now holidays in the Polynesian islands of the south Pacific, in the Seychelles, Australia, New Zealand and islands like Tonga, and you can even negotiate a 25 per cent discount if you can leave immediately for Sunsail's latest set-up in Antigua. The Moorings has a huge fleet in the Caribbean.

Not surprisingly, the customers have become more demanding. Boats tend to be bigger than the 25 or 26 foot cruisers on which people started. A first class infrastructure has to deal not only with making notoriously unreliable charter flights into a smooth transfer, but ensuring that all the right foods are available for those buffet breakfasts and that, if a mast breaks, a replacement can be fitted in 24 hours.

Staffing the fleets an clubs is also a problem as, for instance, Sunsail offer RYA-qualified instructors, qualified nannies for the under-twos and all sorts of skills in between. Keeping the turnover to the minimum and the quality up is a major managerial task. As in every other walk of life, consumers are being encouraged to complain more and more.

With a huge amount of kit to play with, prices are still reasonable. About GBP650 per person for two weeks half board at one of Sunsail's Greek clubs, rising to GBP1,195 at the height of school summer holidays. Those prices would GBP1,140 to GBP2,200 in the Caribbean. Charters in the Caribbean range from GBP715 per person to GBP1,715 (at Christmas) for two weeks in a 34-footer and GBP428 to GBP1,078 for a similar deal in the Mediterranean.

But the clubs have proved popular because it allows each member of the family to do what they want, often within their own age group. Sunsail offer a Penguin Club from 2 -4s, Sea Urchins from 5 - 7, Junior Gybers from 8 - 12, and Beach Team from 13 - 16. Each has its own programme, meaning that the young are looked after every day from 9.30am to 5.00pm, and each is free within the cost of the holiday. Older teens can look after themselves.

But for those who think lying on a beach or messing about close to the shore is all too wimpish for words, take note even if the thought of doing nothing doesn't appeal to you - the price will.

Appeal of power yachts on the rise

BY DAG PIKE

POWERBOATS HAVE been the growth sector of the yachting market in recent years. For every sailboat that takes to the water, four powerboats are launched. It is British builders that are leading the world in the design and technology for this exciting market. Every day, at least ten powerboats are completed in British yards, but there is a growing challenge from both American and European builders as the strong pound starts to bite.

By car industry standards the numbers are small but then you have to remember that a top of the range Sunseeker can cost a cool £2 million. Even the more moderate flybridge cruisers from the top builders such as Fairline, Marine Projects and Sealine can cost upwards of £200,000 so that boat building is now big business.

Who can afford to buy these luxury yachts that gleam under the boat show lights? You might think that they are just for the very rich who want to sit in the sophistication of Monte Carlo, the tax exiles who want to run to the sun. Well these represent some of the customers, but the majority are successful businessmen or executives who have sold up or are earning enough to have a powerboat as part of their new world where they start to enjoy life. Sunseeker have supplied powerboats to many of the Grand Prix racing drivers including Michael Schumacher. But powerboats are not just for the rich and famous, there is a new adventure market developing, and the rigid inflatables

MOTOR BOATS

which serve this market are the fastest growing sector of the marine industry.

Rigid inflatables or RIBs were first developed 32 years ago as rescue boats for the RNLI. Then they were adopted by many professional operators and now they have expanded into a vast leisure market with probably over 100,000 new boats every year worldwide. If the big Sunseekers are the Rolls Royce of the yacht market, then the RIB is the 4-wheel drive equivalent, a boat which can go anywhere and do anything. Not all owners of RIBs want to go out in rough seas and explore remote coastlines, just as 4-wheel drive owners don't all want to go off-road, but it is the image that counts. The RIB looks professional and it is also a safe and forgiving boat and this is what makes it attractive to many new entrants to the power market.

Picton Boats in South Wales is one of the few builders operating in both the sportsboats and RIB sectors and they report that for every sportsboat they build these days, they build three RIBs. This shows how the small powerboat market is changing. The RIB industry is reaching maturity and it supports its own specialist magazine and boat show, but all the top builders will be at the London Show.

Avon Inflatables, which was one of the pioneers, will be introducing a new range of leisure RIBs where the emphasis is on colour and style. Delta, which previously concentrated on the commercial markets, has introduced its Levanter range of leisure RIBs and Ribtec and Ribcraft offer both production and custom designs. South Coast RIBs will be introducing its new Ribeye range in March which not only includes a range of stylish RIBs but also all the clothing and accessories to go with the RIB lifestyle.

The sportsboat market is still very much alive and the main British builders are Fletcher and Shakespeare. These British builders are facing a major challenge mainly from American imports. In the U.S. sportsboats are built in huge numbers, thus quantity building keeps prices down. These US boats not only have a very dashing style but they are also price competitive, particularly with the pound at its current high level.

The high pound is also hurting the major British builders who rely heavily on exports. It hits British builders in two ways: making their products more expensive in overseas markets and also attracting cheap imports from Europe and the U.S. to compete with them on home territory.

U.S. builders Bayliner and Sea Ray may be bigger in terms of numbers, but Marine Projects and Sunseeker is one of the largest in the Poole area. Both employ close to 1000 people and spend a considerable part of their turnover on research and development for new models. Sunseeker International reports a turnover of £74 million last year and is expanding its production facilities to accommodate larger motor yachts than its current flagships, the Manhattan 80 and the Predator 80.

This year, Sunseeker will have the largest motor yacht ever exhibited on its stand at the London Show. The Manhattan 74 may be the smaller sister of the 80, but it will look huge in the confines of Earls Court. Getting it there will be a logistics nightmare, but its curvaceous design is a trendsetter with a top speed of 35 knots and luxury to match.

For those wanting real performance, the Mark II Superhawk 48 from Sunseeker offers speeds up to 60 knots. For the more cautious, there are a whole range of new designs down including the comfortable Camargue 44.

Also, we will see major Italian builder Ferretti exhibiting 53 flybridge cruiser for the first time at London and other Italian builders such as Azimut and Cranchi are also looking for increased sales.

Whilst much attention has been focused on the larger, high performance motor yachts, other builders are having a fresh look at entry level boats which appeal to first time buyers. Fairline which builds yachts up to 65 feet, will be introducing the Targa 30 at London which offers excellent value for money.

As the car market becomes increasingly regulated, powerboats offer a form of escape which cannot be matched by anything else.

A highlight of this year's Sunseeker models: The Predator 80 *Dag Pike*

UK Windsurfing culture coming into its own

BY BILL DAWES

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, windsurfing was big business in the UK. First appearing commercially in the US in the mid-seventies, the windsurfer quickly caught the public imagination worldwide, and in the early eighties it seemed as though every other car on the road had a board on the roofrack. In those days there was actually little alternative for anyone seeking an easily accessible and available "adrenaline sport" – mountain biking, snowboarding, rollerblading, paragliding, indoor climbing and so many other modern action options were yet to hit the scene.

The industry has spent the years since that initial boom "downsizing" to a more realistic level. Although it will never return to the heady heights of those initial boom years, it still accounts for a multi-million pound share of the leisure activity market, with somewhere between a hundred thousand and a quarter of a million active participants in the UK. It has learned to coexist with the newer adrenaline sport – indeed, most windsurf retailers now also stock the goods for many other action options, switching priorities according to the season.

While still largely run by active enthusiasts, the industry has become much more professional about its business, as has the sport in general. Windsurfing today looks very different to how it did in those early years. In Britain it is governed by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), who have put together what is widely regarded as the best teaching system in the world, particularly with regard to introducing children to the sport.

The RYA also manages competition training, with considerable success. An Olympic medal has proved elusive for our sailors as yet, although a podium position at Athens 2000 is not outside the reach of our present lottery-funded Olympic

Top UK professional Nigel Howell, showcasing the ability of UK Windsurfers in rough conditions off the coast of Tiree in the Inner Hebrides. *John Carter*

squad. However, British sailors have really proved a force to be reckoned with in the realms of "funboard" (high wind) competition, with racers such as Jamie Hawkins and Ross Williams regularly winning the Production board World Championships, and the brothers Nik and Ant Baker high in the top ten World Professional rankings. Nik has on several occasions won the British Wind-

WINDSURFING

surfing World Cup event at Brighton, and is also many-times world Indoor windsurfing champion.

Windsurfing has proved to be another of the "minority sports" that Britain excels in but rarely gets reported on. It is no mean feat to do well on the windsurfing Professional Tour, which is exceptionally hard-fought, with the top sailors making millions in prize money and sponsorship.

It is a tribute to the immense talent and dedication of our sailors and teaching systems that the British contingent has won such a disproportionately high number of World Championships.

It also says something about the windsurfing conditions on offer here in the UK. While the warm blue waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Hawaii may provide much more appealing imagery and make for more comfortable learning, the ocean swells and surf battering our western shores and low pressure systems all too regularly sweeping in off the Atlantic give Britain one of the most varied and testing windsurfing environments on the planet. If you can sail well in all the conditions the UK can throw at you, you can sail well anywhere in the world!

Windsurfing equipment has also improved dramatically since the sport first started. The first boards were simply large lumps of polyethylene (washing-up bowl material), whereas the latest designs feature space-age technology construction, utilising such exotic materials as carbon, kevlar and the most sophisticated epoxy resins, to produce an incredibly light but tough hull. Sails have progressed from simple triangular pieces of cloth to computer-designed 3-dimensional foils supported by carbon battens and rigged on carbon masts.

These rigs are extremely light, provide extraordinary stability and can be used in an amazingly wide range of wind conditions. With auch improvements in every aspect of windsurfing equipment, the sport is now far easier to learn, especially as modern boards are also much wider than those of yesteryear, which increases the stability yet further.

Windsurfing is now very much a year-round sport. However, the sport tends to go fairly low profile through the winter and starts properly in March at the Windsurf and Sailboat exhibition at Alexandra Palace which will be the first real opportunity to see all the new 1 999 product line-ups from the major brands

For more information on any aspect of windsurfing contact the RYA on 01703 627400.

Bill Dawes is the editor of UK's Boards Windsurfing Magazine.

SPORT

Hard days but better than cheating and spite

KEN JONES

WHENEVER FOOTBALL matches from the distant past are shown on television someone is sure to say that forms of aggressioo then considered permissible would be severely punished in the present climate.

For example, when looking back recently on the ferociously contested FA Cup final replay between Chelsea and Leeds United at Old Trafford in 1970, a prominent figure among referees pointed out five incidents that would today bring about instant dismissal.

Football was meant to be a hard game. This was once stated without fear of contradiction on the unimpeachable authority of the hard men themselves. They kept repeating it to remind themselves that nobody on the field of play could he trusted.

Nowadays football is not one thing or another. Not as rough as many old players remember but so at odds with Fifa's misguided attempt at reducing physical contact that cheating and spite have become commonplace.

Once rare, elbowing incidents are on the increase along with the shirt-pulling that was a blight on last summer'a World Cup finals.

It is a matter of individual opinion whether attitudes in football have changed for the better, but a view held personally is that the old ways were somehow better.

Take the commotion caused this week by Arsenal's refusal to concede that Fabian Caballero was guilty of violent conduct when flattening Ryan Kidd with an upraised arm during a third-round FA Cup tie at Preston.

Coming so soon after Patrick Vieira's dismissal for flinging an elbow at Neil Redfearn of Charlton, it implied that little has been done to correct Arsenal's frightful disciplinary record – 18 players sent off – under Arsène Wenger's management.

Doubtless this, and similar controversies, will be on the agenda at a meeting to be held shortly between Premier League managers and referees. Both sides could put the point that advancements in speed and general fitness have made it impossible to arrive at an equitable conclusion.

As I remember it, most referees accepted that there is a line so fine as to be almost undistinguishable between the viciously callous and the coldly competent.

That today's crop get much more hotly exercised about tussles for the ball is largely due to Fifa's loose thinking, but gaps in the education of players must also be taken into consideration. Anyone who has been around football long enough to have seen some of the greatest defenders cannot fail to arrive at the conclusion that not many of today's heroes have been properly schooled in the art of dispossession.

Statistics might disprove it, but the impression here is that not many defenders in the Premier League are worth the money they are getting.

It is not their fault that they are indoctrinated in a different code to their predecessors, but spite is oo way to compensate for technical shortcomings.

Myths can grow tall in three or four decades hut, as many can testify, the game back then was unquestionably harder. This applied as much to some fabled attackers as it did to tough defenders.

A few days ago I was in conversation about this with Maurice Setters, who turned out for Manchester United in the 1963 FA Cup final and was assistant manger of the Republic of Ireland under Jack Charlton.

Setters, who is now employed by the Premier League's coaching department, said: "A big difference in my time was that a lot more players had grown up in a hard school and knew how to take care of themselves.

"I cringe when I see guys lunging in now, asking to be hurt, not having much of a clue about protecting themselves."

An extremely hard player himself, Setters recalled that caution was advisable when coming up against some of his day's famed attackers.

"They didn't go looking for trouble," he said, "but trying to intimidate them was just asking for trouble.

"Now it's all pathetic shirt-pulling, cheating for free-kicks and spiteful elbowing. Things have come into English football that were once totally foreign to our way of playing."

As for the sight of a genuine hard case, the species in English football is almost extinct.

After 35 years in the sport Bob Champion, 50, is positive about his future: 'I'll cope. I'll survive. I'll bounce back, don't you worry about that. I'm not just going to lie down and die' *Trevor Jones*

Champion still beating the odds

Having beaten cancer and ridden Aldaniti to Grand National fame the jockey turned trainer faces an uncertain future after handing in his licence. By Richard Edmondson

WHEN HE has heard the loudest applause the silence must be strange for Bob Champion. It was a quiet Christmas at the trainer's Newmarket yard because the horses have gone now. Robert Champion MBE, the conqueror of cancer and Aintree, will no longer be a racehorse trainer at the end of the month. After 35 years in the sport he is retiring.

There will be no tears, though, from Bob Champion. He knows there are more important things to save them for. Indeed, at the same time as Champion's trainer's licence lapses he will, once again, point his car south towards the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey for an annual check-up.

Doctors will conduct blood tests and take x-rays to determine whether Champion's body continues to be free of the cancer he beat 20 years ago. Each year the prospect terrifies him and, as soon as be turns off the M25 towards Sutton, he feels the smell of chemotherapy come all over him. "I can't sleep for two weeks before I go," he says. "I never take anything for granted. It's still a great worry. It's going to be quite a month for me."

As the season might suggest, a little pantomime is played out each time medical staff emerge to give Champioo his results. "I'm sure they come in deliberately looking miserable," he says. "They know how much I worry and they string it out, asking me how my charity is doing, before they eventually put me out of my misery."

The end came for Champion's 16-year training career when he started to do some sums. His best season was the 1984-85 campaign, in which he saddled 11 winners. After that he did not manage double figures again. Eventually, his career was killed by financial strangulatioo.

"I broke even over the last two or three years purely because I kept the numbers down," he says. "Look how many others have stopped recently, the likes of Lynda Ramsden, Geoff Oldroyd, Charlie Brooks, Julie Cecil and Lord Huntingdon, so it's not just me. It's becoming a trend.

"At the time I decided to retire I did a calculation about Martin Pipe, a great trainer. He had won 61 races by then and was well clear of anyone else with horses which had earned £199,000 win and place. With his percentage that gave him £18,000, which is what I would reckon to be the profit, as the training fee is cancelled out by the costs. So he didn't earn that much and he's meant to be the best. What chance have the rest of us got?"

Joy as Champion lands the 1981 Grand National on Aldaniti

Bob Champion himself was given little chance when he was first diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1979. There are not many harder men around than National Hunt jockeys but Champion tells you that on this occasion he was frightened by a single word in the dictionary. The jockey endured operations and chemotherapy which became so painful that he began to wish he had been killed on the racecourse.

He was pulled through partly by a dream he had replayed since childhood. As a boy, wee Bob would set his mates sniggering at the picture house as they watched Pathe News' reports of the Grand National. Young Robert told his giggling audience it was a race he too would win.

Well, he did the hard hit by becoming a jockey and then, one day, his orbit collided with that of a tough old chestnut called Aldaniti. He was not the fastest of horses, an animal wracked by tendon problems, hut the gelding possessed a fighter's temperament. He would gallop through razor wire if required and Champion always considered him a National horse. It was a belief which sustained him through the darkest moments.

On 4 April, 1981, Aldaniti and Boh Champion went to post with 38 others at Aintree. Several minutes later both their lives had changed irrevocably. In the wake of victory, cheques from all over the world started landing at the Royal Marsden, simply care of Bob Champion, some just to "the jockey". The Bob Champion Cancer Trust was born. From its inceptioo close to £7m has been collected for cancer research and the eponymous fundraiser has become much more than just another retired jockey.

"Some aspects of my life have got a lot harder, but hopefully the Cancer Trust has helped a lot of people," Champion says. "For the little bit of privacy I have lost from my personal life it's not a big price to pay to help these people who are fighting. Every life we can prolong, every life we can save, makes me feel chuffed to bits."

Champion saw the end of Aldaniti almost two years ago when the old horse died aged 26, and in three weeks' time he will witness the termination of his career. He hopes to remain at the Cleveland House yard he purchased over two years ago and rent out the 24 boxes. "It's a hit quieter round here now," he says, "but I still throw my leg over a horse in the mornings."

Bob Champion is 50 now and there are the nicks about his face which remind you of his former career. Champion has been divorced twice by womeo who claimed that while their former spouse may have been saved by the angels he did not fit readily into their company. The ex-trainer does not know what is coming next, but he has no fear. "I've got a few possibilities but nothing certain at the moment," Champion says. "But I'll cope. I'll survive. I'll bounce back, don't you worry about that. I'm not just going to lie down and die." We know.

TOMORROW

ATTEMPTING TO TAME THE TIGERS: BARKING, RUGBY UNION'S WOULD-BE GIANT-KILLERS

Fury at Tyson's 'Botha to die'

BOXING

BY SIMON STONE AND MARK STANIFORTH

MIKE TYSON has shocked the boxing world by saying that he "expects François Botha to die" in their fight in Las Vegas later this month.

During a press conference on Tuesday night, Tyson's anger got the better of him once again as he gave short answers and ended with an obscenity-ridden rant. The American former heavyweight world champion and the South African Botha meet on 16 January in Tyson's first fight since heing banned for biting Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997.

In his most outspoken statement, Tyson said: "Absolutely. I am going right at him and I expect him to go down cold. I expect him to die."

Tyson's return to the ring already promises to be short-lived. He pleaded oo cootest on assault charges stemming from an August traffic accident in Maryland, and faces up to 20 years in jail.

Asked if he thought he would be able to avoid trouble that long, Tyson said: "I don't know anybody who stays out of trouble for 20 years. I may oot live for 20 years."

The uncertainty has clouded Tyson's boxing future, but talk has inevitably moved on to the prospect of Tyson meeting the winner of March's unification bout between Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

"It is one fight at a time, one fight at a time," Tyson said. "Let's just get through this one, then I will answer questions about the oext."

Even before his first fight back from exile, Tyson has run into trouble, and the backlash against him has started. Henry Cooper, the former British heavyweight champion, said: "I just can't understand why boxers persist in making these statements. Tyson is not a kid anymore and he knows that people do get killed in the ring. If it happens, it only fuels the anti-boxing arguments."

"Money is the god now," Cooper added. "When I went into the ring I wanted to prove I was the better fighter, not to kill someone. Fighters seem to think they have to make statements like these to sell their contests, but I don't recall Joe Louis saying anything like that.

"There used to be a certain dignity within fighters, each pitting their skills against the other. Sadly, those days are long gone."

The veteran British promoter and former fighter Mickey Duff echoed Cooper's views, and claimed Tyson should have his licence to fight removed. "Statements like these are detrimeotal to boxers and boxing and only add more weight to the anti-boxing lobby," he said. "I had 69 professional fights and I never wanted to kill anyone.

"It is particularly unfortunate coming so soon after the death of Jerry Quarry. It is bad for his memory. People are entitled to be allowed to earn a living, but sometimes they go too far."

Britain's former world flyweight champion, Charlie Magri, reacted with disgust to Tyson's words. "If you want boxing to survive, you will have to do it without Mike Tyson," he said.

"He was good for the game at one point, hut the sooner he has his licence taken away the better.

"Boxing is all about winning on points and knocking people out – not killing them," Magri added. "Tyson is just a bully and, whenever he fights people who are not intimidated by him, he loses."

Gunnell prodigy back in running

New faces for 1999: Julie Pratt (left) is showing the tenacity of her famous clubmate as she fights back from an early upset. By *Mike Rowbottom*

Back on track: Julie Pratt puts in a hard training session at Braintree (above) and proudly displays her world junior championship winner's medal (left) *Peter Jay*

AMONG THE many success stories of 1998 for British athletics, that of a junior athlete bears re-examination. You could call it *the Fall and Rise of Julie Pratt.*

In the summer of 1997, at the European Junior Championships, she had led at the final barrier in the 100 metre hurdles final only to fall with such force that she grazed herself from head to toe.

A year on, the 19-year-old Essex girl made the most of her final opportunity of racing at junior level when she won the world title in Annecy, France, against a field that included four competitors who had run faster than her best of 13.52sec.

Both Pratt and the silver medallist, Hongwei Sun of China, were timed at 13.75sec, edging out the Chinese entrant Hongwei Sun, who had a best of 12.92.

That the runners got away after four false starts in teeming rain may have helped Pratt achieve her ambition. "It was absolutely terrible weather," she said. "When I woke up that morning I could see that it was going to be awful. But it didn't really bother me, because I was used to running in the rain."

After getting an outstanding start, Pratt found herself level with the Chinese girl with two barriers left. "When I cleared *the last hurdle I just closed my* eyes and went for the line," she said. "I didn't know I'd won until I heard the announcement." The news prompted loud celebratioo in the stand from Pratt's pareots, David and Arlene. "It was very emotional," recalled Pratt, who now faces the tricky challenge of a transition from junior to senior ranks.

Pratt is following in a long line of Essex Ladies' athletes who have excelled over the hurdles. There was Wendy Jeal, *who took silver behind Gunnell's* gold in the 1986 Commonwealth sprint hurdles, Gladys Taylor, Jean Desforges and Edie Peacock. And, of course, there was Sally Gunnell, the most successful British female athlete in history.

Brenda Wilmot, who has been associated with Essex Ladies as an athlete and volunteer for more than 40 years, has a clear memory of the impact that the 11-year-old Pratt made on the club when she began training there – and it was not huge.

"She was a tot of a thing," Wilmot said. "She did not have the brilliant star quality that one or two of the other girls had, hut she beavered away.

"When you have enormous natural talent, the temptation is just to get hy on talent. Many of the very promising girls fell by the wayside because they couldn't work hard. But Julie is a very determined character who keeps her eyes fixed on the target.

"She has got the sort of tenacity that Sally had. There are definitely similarities between the two."

The tot, grown now to 5ft 6in, accepts that self-discipline is one of her strongest assets. The Chelmsford-based athlete only meets up with her coach, Ian Grant, at weekends when he travels from his home in Swindon to oversee her technical work. For the rest of the week Pratt is reliant on herself.

"I have to follow Ian's training schedules and make sure I do all the work properly," she said. "That takes a certain level of discipline." She also gives credit to her first coach, Les Corder, for being careful to hring her along gradually, limiting her outings to races against those of her own age.

"A lot of other girls in my age group were racing regularly against older competitors, which was tiring and sometimes demoralising."

As you might expect, Gunnell *has been a source of inspiration* and encouragement to the young clubmate who followed in her steps. In 1995, when Gunnell was Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth 400m hurdles champion – world record holder, too – she took a group of 10 promising young athletes, of whom Pratt was one, for a training trip in Portugal.

"She told us all to believe in ourselves," Pratt said. "She said if we could do that we could make it all the way. She's a very down-to-earth person, and when she came along and started winning everything it made all the British women in athletics realise that they could mix it with everyone and show the rest of the world what they could do."

Pratt's hopes of showing the world her full potential will be enhanced in 1999 by the secood European under-23 championships, to be held in Gothenburg, where she will attempt to *consolidate her success.*

Although Pratt intends to contest the senior world championship trials, she is looking beyond 1999 to the 2000 Olympics as a more realistic focus for senior achievement.

Pratt's victory in France earned her the title of junior female athlete of the year from Britain's athletics writers. It would be nice to think she could figure again in the near future when the time comes to assess the hest of British *talent.*

Kosir's conquest of home peak

SKIING

JURE KOSIR of Slovenia fulfilled his childhood dream with a home victory in a World Cup slalom in front of 10,000 fans in Kranjska Gora yesterday.

Kosir, whose only other World Cup win came in Madonna di Campiglio in 1994, repelled the challenge of the Austrians to produce a two-run aggregate time of 1min 37.22sec. The man from the oearby town of Mojstana thus became the third Slovenian to win a slalom in Kranjska Gora. Bojan Krizaj managed the feat in 1982 and 1986 and Rok Petrovic won in 1985.

Kosir, 26, was speechless *after the triumph as fans celebrated* loudly and carried him on their shoulders through the finish area. "I have been skiing oo this slope since I was a kid. I always dreamed of winning here. This is the biggest thing to have happened in my life," he said. "I always imagined skiing through the finish line and winning and what the crowds would be like and how they would cheer. This is what happened today, and it is like a dream."

The veteran Thomas Stangassinger was *second in 1:37.48* ahead of his fellow Austrian Benjamin Raich, a 20-year-old World Cup newcomer who made a staggering improvement on his first run to move up from 16th to third in 1:37.79.

Raich's result was a surprise, as was the fourth place of another young Austrian, the 21-year-old Rainer Schönfelder, who recorded the fastest second-run time – nearly three seconds quicker than that of Kosir – for an overall 1:37.85 after lying 27th in the first leg.

Thomas Sykora, Austria's leading figure in slalom, and the discipline's World Cup champion for the past two years, suffered a career-threatening injury before the race. He hurt his left knee in the pre-race warm-up, tearing the tendon he had surgery on in late November.

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SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Hit our batsmen in the pocket

Sir: Once again the England batsmen have let us down. What is noticeable about them is that in the domestic game they are no longer run-hungry and so they are not prepared to play long innings at Test level.

Wheo I first watched cricket more than 50 years ago, the Test batsmen usually figured in the top 10 of the season's averages. This was true up to the end of the Boycott era. Now they are so laid back they cannot be bothered to apply themselves (only one batsman appeared in the top 20 last season).

Perhaps it is time to adopt the Ryder Cup selection system. If you are not in the top 10 in the averages, you will not be picked. They would soon start performing to protect their pay packets.

A J HOLLAND
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Sir: After England's win in the fourth Test there has been a lot of comment on the so-called Barmy Army who "support" England. These people are nothing more than thuggish louts who turn up and chant mindless trash all day, but know nothing about the game. They then go to the pubs and get stoned out of their mind, making life unpleasant for law-abiding citizens. The ruhbish that now follows the England cricket team abroad and to some extent at home should be dealt with by the authorities so we can go to cricket again in peace. If cricket does not want to go *the same way as football* it should get rid of these hooligans.

HOWARD CONWAY
Ilford, Essex

Sir: *Surely someone must* have noticed that all the countries that have better cricket *teams than ours* – that is, every other cricketing nation – also have better weather *conditions: hot* and sunny!

The only place where we get *anywhere near to parity* is on the green, green, grass of home. Witness the fortunate win last "summer" against the South Africans.

The solution is either to base our team in a place where the weather allows *them to* play 365 days a year, or to build English cricket grounds within a controlled weather environment – a sort of Center Parks of cricket!

Dour, inclement weather breeds a dour, under-performing team.

J B SHEAD
Boston, Lincs

Sir: *The Independent* compiler of cricket scorecards for the Ashes Tests was Jo King. If only she were.

TOM SAUL
London

Pontypool fans can you help?

Sir: *Pontypool Rugby Foot*hall Club has great traditions and history. We hope to create a *Pontypool RFC* museum in the near future which we believe could be *an attraction for visitors to* next year's World Cup. If anyone has anything relat*ing to the club* – photographs, caps, jerseys, programmes, etc – and wishes to donate or lend them to the club for inclusion in the museum, please contact me. I would also like to hear from families of former players – particularly ex- internationals. You will, of course, be acknowledged in the museum if you wish. You can cootact me at: St Dunstans, Commercial Street, Pontypool, Torfaen, South Wales, NP4 5JE.

R RIDDICK
museum co-ordinator

Sir Elton talks a good game

Sir: *How refreshing it was to* read the comments by Sir Elton John which were re*ported in Glenn Moore's ar*ticle (23 December). With further opportunities, I feel he *could have a beneficial* influence on the game.

PAUL UNDERWOOD
Harrow

Jonathan is a true champion

Sir: I was disappointed you *only gave our new Formula* One world powerboat champion, Jonathan Jones, a few *lines and ran a full article* about Steve Curtis winning a different title for the third time in a Norwegian boat.

Jonathan won his title for the fourth time and should have been given greater credit for his achievement.

CLIVE RICHARDSON
Llandysul, Cardiganshire

Sheikh's colours may fade out

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

SHEIKH MOHAMMED'S continued fixation with establishing Godolphin as the premier racing unit in the world may mean that his personal maroon and white silks – for long the sport's dominant colours – may disappear entirely.

Three trainers – Mark Johnston, Barry Hills and Luca Cumani – have been dropped from the roster this season as the number of juveniles sent into training and bearing the maroon and white livery gradually dries up.

Sheikh Mohammed will have 178 two-year-olds in his personal colours this year, spread between John Gosden and Sir Michael Stoute in this country, plus John Oxx in Ireland and André Fabre in France. That figure is down from 246 last year and if the decrease continued at that rate the Sheikh Mohammed colours could be rendered extinct in three seasons.

The Sheikh has become increasingly entranced with Godolphin ever since the experiment of wintering horses in his native Dubai before returning them to Europe began seven years ago. He gains particular pleasure from seeing his string on a daily basis in the Emirates and the consequent increased input he has to their training.

But as Godolphin has thrived, his personal Darley organisation has appeared little more than a feeder station for the boys in Royal blue. "Sheikh Mohammed particularly enjoys the Godolphin operation and Darley appears increasingly like a provider of horses for Godolphin," Cumani said yesterday. "The emphasis is more and more Godolphin and less and less Darley, and it may be that one day it will be wound up completely."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Hi Hedley
(Market Rasen 1.10)
NB: Coppeen Jewel
(Market Rasen 3.15)

Cumani has enjoyed great success with the Sheikh, most notably Barathea's victory in the 1994 Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs. "We have had good horses from him before, for which we are grateful, and we will carry on with what is left, I presume, until they are finished," the trainer added.

"It is sad not to have horses from Sheikh Mohammed but one understands why. I don't believe it is for any hidden reason or any particular dissatisfaction."

The irritation which Sheikh Mohammed is probably more likely to feel concerns the prize-money in Britain. His words and movements have been monitored far more closely since the Gimcrack speech at York just over a year ago, when he warned that the Maktoums would "massively reduce" their racing interests within these shores unless the sport's finances were improved.

Those at Godolphin have always stressed that the whole operation, which is currently based each summer in Newmarket, could easily be replanted elsewhere. Possible evidence of intent comes this season when around 100 Godolphin two-year-olds will be trained by David Loder at Evry racecourse in France.

Godolphin's attempts to plunder the most lucrative prizes around the globe will continue, including Britain as long as the price is right. "As long as we have the best racing, that ambience and healthy competition Sheikh Mohammed will always race here because he is that type of man," Cumani said.

Although Mark Johnston will be receiving no Sheikh Mohammed horses this season, he will actually train more animals for Dubai's ruling family, thanks largely to the contribution of Sheikh Maktoum, the eldest of the four brothers, and his Gainsborough Stud.

"From an industry point of view the only message we should take from all this is for those people who suggested Sheikh Mohammed couldn't move his horses from Britain," the Middleham trainer said yesterday.

"The message is loud and clear: he can do exactly what he wants. He is quite capable and organised enough to move them anywhere he likes.

"I wouldn't say he was doing it [the allocation of juveniles] with the intention of giving a warning to the industry, but we shouldn't ever tell ourselves that owners like Sheikh Mohammed couldn't move their horses. We should always be aware of the fact that he has got that choice and he has exercised it to some extent by sending some to France.

"We have seen him move 100 to France and he could move more if he chooses to. We have got to try to keep him happy in Britain and make sure he continues to enjoy it here."

Mark Johnston (right) will have no juveniles sent to him this year by Sheikh Mohammed, whose silks are sported above by Jason Weaver *Phil Smith*

Maguire steps up for Holly

ADRIAN MAGUIRE, whose fortunes have turned skywards ever since he resigned as David Nicholson's stable jockey last week, has been booked to replace Andrew Thornton aboard French Holly in the AIG Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on 24 January. Thornton, who has an infection in his left leg, yesterday conceded that he will not be fit for the race in which French Holly will encounter the Champion Hurdler, Istabraq, for the first time.

"It is very unfortunate [for Thornton] but I am absolutely delighted," Maguire said. "He is a very good horse and anyone would be delighted to ride him. I haven't ridden the horse before but he has won some very good races and beaten some very good horses. I am very impressed with him.

"I don't see the two miles being a problem," Maguire added. "I have seen him win a few times and have been very impressed.

"Istabraq was very impressive when winning the Champion Hurdle last year but some people say that French Holly may be the horse to go and beat him – I'm looking forward to it."

Malta loses standing in Gold Cup market

CYFOR MALTA has been eased in Cheltenham Gold Cup betting in the wake of the news that he is also to be entered for the Champion Chase and that the two-mile event may be his Festival target. The Martin Pipe-trained gelding is now 10-1 from 8-1 with William Hill, who have shortened Florida Pearl to 4-1 from 9-2.

Fans of Venetia Williams, who trains the Gold Cup favourite, Teeton Mill, have taken the 33-1 about her Stretarez, a Group-race winner on the Flat, for the Champion Hurdle and he is in to 20-1 with Hills.

Double Thriller, the former hunter chaser who is the last horse to have beaten Teeton Mill and is now in the care of Paul Nicholls, was yesterday well backed with Coral for the Gold Cup. They have cut him to 33-1 from 50-1 and report significant sums for three runners, Impulsive Dream, Slaney Native and Mykon Gold in Saturday's Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown.

They have trimmed Impulsive Dream to 10-1 from 11-1, Slaney Native to 12-1 from 14-1, and Mykon Gold to 14-1 from 16-1.

FIRST SHOW

Market Rasen 2.10

	C	H	L	S	T
Marigliano	2-1	5-2	2-1	9-4	15-8
Black Bullet	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4
Warrlin	6-1	5-1	11-2	11-2	11-2
Duke's Mount	6-1	11-2	6-1	6-1	7-1
Key Grip	8-1	8-1	10-1	8-1	10-1
Fair And Fancy	8-1	9-1	12-1	9-1	9-1
Sunrise Special	11-1	11-1	9-1	10-1	12-1
Non Vintage	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	16-1

Each-way a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Coral, H Wm Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

RESULTS

WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: Standard

1.00: (6f amateurs handicap)
1. ANOTHER NIGHTMARE ...... Mrs C Williams 25-1
2. Takhlid ...... Miss R Clark 13-2
3. Theatre Magic ... Mrs S Bosley 11-10 fav
Also: 6-1 Garnock Valley (4th), Martindale, 6-1 Bashful Brave, 14-1 Chaluz (5th), 16-1 Astral Invader (6th), 33-1 Backhander.
9 ran. 1½, 1¼, hd, 2½, ¾ (*winner bay mare by Treasure Kay out of Carange*, trained by O Barker, at Richmond, for GM Engineering). Tote: win £26.50; places £4.80, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £76.40. CSF: £166.97. Tricast: £311.06.

1.30: (6f amateurs handicap)
1. BAPTISMAL ROCK ...... Miss C Hannaford 2-1 fav
2. Young Bigwig ...... Miss R Clark 10-1
3. Present 'N Correct ... Miss C Bryan 10-1
Also: 7-2 Mary Jane (5th), 4-1 Mutasawwar (4th), 8-1 Silk Cottage, 14-1 Little Ibnr (6th), 16-1 Flying Touch, 33-1 Palacegate Gold.
9 ran. 2, 1¼, nk, 1¼, ¾ (*winner chestnut gelding by Ballad Rock out of Flower From Heaven*, trained by A Newcombe, Barnstaple, for M Patel). Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £2.60, £2.80. DF: £21.20. CSF: £22.78. Tricast: £154.54.

2.00: (1m 1f 79yds selling stakes)
1. ROFFEY SPINNEY ... Barry Smith 9-2
2. Monchanin ...... S Righton 3-1
3. Hyperico ...... S Whitworth 6-1
Also: 11-4 fav Portite Sophie (5th), 5-1 Karetree Katie, 6-1 Puiwee (4th), 6-1 Soldier Cove (6th), 20-1 Domington, 25-1 Gad Yakoun.
9 ran. 8, 1, ½, 1, 3 (*winner chestnut gelding by Masterclass out of Crossed Line*, trained by J Cullinan, Aylesbury, for Alan Spargo Ltd). Tote: win £8.20; places £5.80, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £129.60. CSF: £19.97. No bid for the winner. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.30: (1m 100yds maiden stakes)
1. VIOLET ...... A Nicholls 10-11 fav
2. Air Of Esteem ...... Dale Gibson 12-1
3. Bruff Stream ...... J Fanning 7-1
Also: 6-1 Toreero, 15-2 Almazhar (5th), 12-1 Rubamma, Two On The Bridge (6th), 20-1 Distant Bells, 25-1 Don't Worry Mike, 33-1 Dovedon Times, Seven O Seven (4th), Soldier, Wild Times.
13 ran. 7, sht-hd, 1, ¾, ½ (*winner bay filly by Mukaddamah out of Scanno's Choice*, trained by Lord Huntingdon, West Ilsley, for Anglia Bloodstock). Tote: win £2.10; places £1.80, £2.40, £1.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £18.75.

3.00: (1m 100yds handicap)
1. BARON DE PICHON ...... J Quinn 3-1
2. Love Diamonds .. R Fitzpatrick 11-4 fav
3. Top Fit ...... W Ryan 4-1
Also: 9-2 Windshift (5th), 7-1 Miss Take (6th), 12-1 Sunset Lady, 14-1 Ultra Calm (4th).
7 ran. 1¼, 1½, 4, 8, 1½ (*winner bay colt by Perugino out of Ariadne*, trained by N Littmoden, Wolverhampton, for DGH Partnership). Tote: win £3.50; places £1.90, £1.90. DF: £8.60. CSF: £11.08. Tricast: £29.89. Trifecta: £48.00. NR: Jellybeen.

3.30: (1m 4f handicap)
1. FAILED TO HIT ...... J Tate 4-1
2. Sioux ...... Dean McKeown 7-1
3. Dancing Rio ...... M Tebbutt 6-4 fav
Also: 3-1 Alsahib (4th), 6-1 Mazeed (5th), 20-1 Twilight Sleep (6th).
6 ran. 6, 5, 6, 16, dist (*winner bay gelding by Warrshan out of Missed Again*, trained by N Littmoden, Wolverhampton, for M C S D Racing). Tote: win £6.90; places £2.00, £2.80. DF: £23.90. CSF: £30.27. Tricast: £49.89. NRs: Count Basie, Manilano.

4.00: (1m 1f 79yds selling stakes)
1. AREISH ...... J Edmunds 4-1
2. Burning ...... T G McLaughlin 5-4 fav
3. Zahran ...... C Carver 12-1
Also: 5-2 Melt The Clouds (5th), 9-1 Allez Cyrano (6th), 12-1 Francesca's Folly, 14-1 Classic Colours (4th), 25-1 Mercury.
8 ran. 4, 10, 5, 5, 7 (*winner bay mare by Keen out of Cool Combination*, trained by J Balding, Doncaster, for Mrs J Coghlan-Everitt). Tote: £4.00; £1.10, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £4.10. CSF: £9.82. No bid for the winner.

4.30: (5f handicap, 3YO)
1. TROJAN GIRL T G McLaughlin 9-4 fav
2. Amber Jasmine ...... C Lowther 6-1
3. Ladycake ...... P Bradley 9-1
Also: 11-4 Thornaby Girl (6th), 6-1 Nicholas Mistress (4th), Sharp Rhythm (5th), 10-1 Legal Venture.
7 ran. 3, ½, 3, 1, 8 (N Littmoden, Wolverhampton). Tote: win £2.60; places £2.00, £3.50. DF: £9.80. CSF: £14.36. Tricast: £90.58.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £27,504.12 carried forward to Market Rasen today.
Quadpot: £30.50. Placepot: £71.50.
Place 6: £65.62. Place 5: £43.98.

LINGFIELD

Going: Heavy

12.50: 1. THE ROBE (O McPhail) 7-2; 2. Illuminate 7-1; 3. Ivory Coaster 15-2. 9 ran. 3-1 fav Lord Regal (pulled up). 6, 6. (A Carroll, Worcester). Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £2.20, £2.10. DF: £8.70. CSF: £28.23. Tricast: £165.42.
1.20: 1. PARK ROYAL (M A Fitzgerald) 11-10 fav; 2. Round Robin 9-2; 3. Wonderboy 33-1. 7 ran. 1, 8 (P Butler, Lewes). Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £2.50. DF: £3.60. CSF: £6.47.
1.50: 1. KINGDOM OF SHADES (R Dunwoody) 2-1; 3. Brackenheath 11-4; 3. Ballyharry 66-1. 6 ran. 15-8 fav True Fortune (fell). Dist, 8. (Miss V Williams, Hereford). Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £1.50, £7.90. DF: £2.90. CSF: £7.33.
2.20: 1. TRESOR DE MAI (*A P McCoy*) 7-4 fav; 2. Montroe 2-1; 3. Royal Toast 9-4. 6 ran. 25, 20. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.30. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.68.
2.50: 1. GLADIATEUR IV (R Dunwoody) 4-6 fav; 2. Tellion 13-2; 3. Red Brook Lad 11-1. 6 ran. 4, 27. (P Hobbs). Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.60. DF: £5.10. CSF: £5.97. NR: Under The Carpet.
3.20: 1. ANOTHER DEADLY (T J Murphy) 7-1; 2. Benjamin Lancaster 33-1; 3. Strong Stuff 6-4 fav. 5 ran. 3½, 16. (T Casey, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £5.80; £2.30, £2.50. DF: £23.80. CSF: £85.25.
3.50: 1. SHOOFK (M A Fitzgerald) 6-1; 2. Tickerty's Gift evens fav; 3. Derisbay 7-2. 5 ran. Nk, dist. (S Dow, Epsom). Tote: £9.20; £4.00, £1.10. DF: £4.40. CSF: £12.34. NRs: Grand Cru, Suranom.
Placepot: £42.60. Quadpot: £38.40.
Place 6: £208.23. Place 5: £71.74.

MUSSELBURGH

Going: Good to Soft

12.40: 1. FINISTERRE (R McGrath) 9-4 fav; 2. Foxes Tail 16-1; 3. Naijer 5-1. 14 ran. 1½, 2½. (J J O'Neill). Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £3.60, £2.20. DF: £24.80. CSF: £24.67. Persian Fayre (7-1) withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 deduction on all bets, 10p in the pound.
1.10: 1. OVERSMAN (S Durack) 9-2; 2. Dublin River 10-1; 3. Battery Fired 6-1. 9 ran. 6-4 fav Rallegio (5th). 3, hd. (J FitzGerald). Tote: £4.40; £1.40, £1.90, £1.60. DF: £5.40. CSF: £41.69. NRs: Fairy Three, Lumback Lady. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.
1.40: 1. TRIGGERFISH (S Taylor) 6-1; 2. Double Agent 10-1; 3. Nosam 7-2. 8 ran. 7-4 fav Fen Terrier (fell). Nk, 2. (P Monteith). Tote: £8.60; £1.60, £5.10, £1.20. DF: £48.80. CSF: £71.41. Tricast: £300.26. NR: Rinus Major.
2.10: 1. XAIPETE (K Johnson) 5-2 jt fav; 2. Golden Hello 6-1; 3. Marble Man 7-2. 8 ran. 5-2 jt fav Mukev Prince (5th). 7, 4. (N Mason). Tote: £2.60; £1.80, £3.00. DF: £11.50. CSF: £19.96. NR: Know-No-No.
2.40: 1. JESSOLLE (L Wyer) 9-1; 2. Pontevedra 4-1; 3. Tabriz 10-1. 11 ran. 5-2 fav Jessica One (4th). 4, 3½. (N Richards). Tote: £15.80; £3.60, £2.30, £2.60. DF: £29.20. CSF: £43.25. Tricast: £345.54. NR: Rag Doll.
3.10: 1. SALEM BEACH (C McCormack) 33-1; 2. Owens Quest 12-1; 3. Parish 20-1. 10 ran. 5-2 fav Weaver George (fell). 1¼, 14. (M Todhunter). Tote: £56.30; £11.70, £4.40, £4.10. DF: £91.10. CSF: £325.93. Tricast: £7,180.19.
3.40: 1. MR LAMB (R Johnson) 7-2 jt fav; 2. Barney Knows 6-1; 3. Blue Moon 7-2 jt fav. 14 ran. 2½, 1¾. (Miss S Hall). Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £8.30, £3.10. DF: £24.00. CSF: £27.86. NR: Wolherton.
Placepot: £995.10. Quadpot: £139.10.
Place 6: £2,428.56. Place 5: £1,553.08.

MARKET RASEN

HYPERION

1.10 Cherry Dee
1.40 Devonshire
2.10 MARIGLIANO (nap)
2.45 Sail On Sid
3.15 Jowoody
3.45 Ghost Moon

Heavy ground forced abandonment of steeplechases scheduled for today's card.
GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in back straight).
■ Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furlong.
■ Course is E of town on A631. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £14; Tattersalls £10 (OAP members of course's Jubilee Club half price); Silver Ring £5 (Jubilee Club OAPs half price). Accompanied under-16s free all enclosures. Concessions for students. CAR PARK: picnic areas £3 per vehicle plus £5 Silver Ring entry for each occupant; remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 22 wins from 92 runners (23.9%), Mrs M Reveley 21-104 (20.2%), Mrs S Smith 16-110 (14.5%), Miss H Knight 13-41 (31.7%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 30 wins from 78 rides (38.5%), N Williamson 20-85 (23.5%), A S Smith 17-151 (11.3%), L Wyer 16-87 (18.4%).
■ FAVOURITES: 219 wins from 618 races (success rate 35.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Raggerty (1.10) sent 288 miles.

1.10 GRANTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,250 added 3m Penalty Value £1,471

1	02P-4P	CHERRY DEE (44) (D) (George Digger) P Beaumont 8 12 0	B Grattan
2	3013-0	RIVERBANK ROSE (22) (Gary Whaldon Syndicate) W Clay 8 11 4	Michael Brennan
3	2P1/P4	HI HEDLEY (25) (D) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 11 2	L Aspell
4	22/545	TAP ON TOOTSIE (25) (R Cooper) T Wall 7 11 1	X Aizpuru
5	344-05	POLAR KING (34) (I Bray) C Thornton 8 10 9	J Tizzard
6	PP431P	BOSTON MAN (12) (C) (M K Oldham) R Woodhouse 8 10 7	C McCormack
7	660/50	RIMOUSKI (22) (D) (B R Cambidge) B Cambidge 11 10 6	R Massey
8	5U02/0	COLWALL (35) (Mrs Yvonne Allsop) A Hobbs 8 10 2	R Widger
9	64085/	RAGGERTY (853) (C) (Miss K Whitehouse) Miss K Whitehouse 9 10 0	G F Ryan
10	-000P4	WOODHOUSE BAY (12) (Sir Peter Miller) C Morlock 8 10 0	M Batchelor B
11	/U-0P4	PLAID MAID (9) (Lord Oaksey) M Bradstock 7 10 0	M Griffiths

– 11 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Woodhouse Bay 9st 11lb, Plaid Maid 9st 1lb.
BETTING: 4-1 Hi Hedley, 5-1 Cherry Dee, 11-2 Polar King, 6-1 Tap On Tootsie, 7-1 Riverbank Rose, 8-1 Boston Man, Woodhouse Bay, 10-1 Colwall, 20-1 others
1998: meeting abandoned due to waterlogging

FORM GUIDE

Cherry Dee: Tailed off in two chases this term, but every chance off this mark on win in similar event at Carlisle (3m hcap, soft) from 1lb lower in Feb. Goes well fresh

Riverbank Rose: Narrow winner from 4lb lower at Stratford (3m3f hcap, good to firm) in May. Encouraging Bangor return but possibly a shade high in weights

Hi Hedley: Beat a useful field at Uttoxeter (3m hcap, good) in 1997 from 9lb higher but lightly raced since. Signs of a return to form when 30 lengths 4th of 11 to Sorbiere at Folkestone (2m6f cond hcap hdle, heavy) and likely to play a big part

Tap On Tootsie: Worcester winner from 1lb higher in 1998. Successful on Flat last year and shaped as though return to 3m would suit when fair 12 lengths 5th of 14 to Alzoomo at Doncaster (2m4f hcap, soft) latest

Polar King: Placed twice in 8 novice starts. Some improvement when 16 lengths 5th to Kris Green at Newcastle (2m hcap hdle, heavy) latest, but still plenty to find

Boston Man: Unpredictable. Possibly well treated on 27 lengths win from subsequent scorer Hags Way at Carlisle (2m4f, heavy) in Nov but pulled up lame since

Rimouski: Light of the past, without a win since 1995. Well beaten both starts since return from long lay-off and difficult to fancy

Colwall: Ludlow 2m5f winner from 2lb higher 2 years ago. Encouraging 25 lengths 7th of 13 to Charlie Banker at Windsor after long lay-off, but possibly best watched

Raggerty: Three-time winner in 1993, but disappointing afterwards and is returning from three-year lay-off

Woodhouse Bay: Unplaced in 6 starts, but signs of improvement when 18 lengths 4th of 15 to Young Thruster at Huntingdon (3m 2f nov hdle) and possible long-shot

Plaid Maid: First form when 21 lengths 4th to You're A Goodun at Haydock (2m7f hcap, soft), from 14lb out of weights, but looks a remote prospect in this tougher race

VERDICT: It would be no surprise to see Cherry Dee make a bold bid on return to the smaller obstacles, and there is always the possibility of a stunning show from the inconsistent Boston Man, but WOODHOUSE BAY, who shaped nicely behind Young Thruster when blinkered for the first time in a useful novice at Huntingdon, might be the answer. Her light weight could be a telling factor if conditions deteriorate.

1.40 SPALDING 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,800 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,134

1	/P6-08	ALTHREY CAPTAIN (15) (F Lloyd) W Clay 6 11 5	G Tormey
2	23-0	CAIUS (75) (Mr & Mrs J H Riley) J M Jefferson 6 11 5	A Maguire
3	3-23	DEVONSHIRE (35) (Robert Ogden) Miss V Williams 6 11 5	R Dunwoody
4	5P/234	MAPLETON (27) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8 11 5	R Wilkinson (5)
5	P	OWNER'S DELIGHT (65) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 11 5	C Honour (7)
6	04P5	MECCA PRINCE (47) (Mecca Social Clubs) R Whitaker 4 10 6	R Thornton
7	00	TOM'S PRIZE (35) (Mrs P Joynes) T Wall 4 10 6	C Llewellyn
8	05	GRACIE GREY (28) (Rowland Hill) Mrs S Lamyman 4 10 1	R Farrant

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 8-11 Devonshire, 5-2 Caius, 9-2 Mapleton, 10-1 Tom's Prize, 12-1 Gracie Grey, 16-1 Mecca Prince, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Althrey Captain: Beaten a distance both starts this term and no obvious chance

Caius: Plenty of ability in two bumpers and promising hurdles debut when 32 lengths 7th of 12 to Scotmail Lad at Carlisle (2m 1f nov, soft). Open to improvement, though faster ground would help

Devonshire: Promise both starts, and shorter trip might suit after 23 lengths 3rd of 13 to Yeoman Sailor at Wincanton (2m 6f nov hdle). Looks the form pick

Mapleton: Running to similar level of form last three starts and one-paced when 13 lengths 4th of 8 to Cashaplenty at Doncaster (2m nov hcp, good). Something to find

Owner's Delight: Little evident promise when pulled up 2 out in race won by Rio's King at Warwick (2m 3f nov, soft) and likely to need plenty of time

Mecca Prince: Improved effort when, led to after 3 out, 28 lengths 5th of 11 to Accystan at Catterick (2m nov claim, good to firm), but still makes little appeal

Tom's Prize: On the heels of yesterday's winner Park Royal when 58 lengths 8th of 18 to Cool Performance at Leicester. Longer trip should suit and is possible improver

Gracie Grey: Good work closing stages when 21 lengths 5th of 14 to Legend Of Love over 2m1f here (heavy) latest. Extra 2f should suit, but this looks much tougher

VERDICT: DEVONSHIRE, related to the smart chaser Buck Willow, has fallen below expectations but the return to a shorter trip should get him off the mark. His form is head and shoulders above the opposition, and trainer Venetia Williams' team is still in form. Caius, whose bumper form was on fast ground, is potentially the most serious rival, but in current conditions Mapleton and Tom's Prize may be bigger factors.

2.10 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £7,500 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £5,500

1	0/14-6	DUKE'S MOUNT (33) (D) (Mrs Claire Smith) D Nicholson 9 11 12	A Maguire
2	0-1422	KEY GRIP (12) (J Townson) Mrs S Smith 8 11 2	G F Ryan (3)
3	343323	NON VINTAGE (16) (CD) (Alan Mann) M Chapman 6 11 1	W Worthington
4	4-P211	MARIGLIANO (USA) (5) (T R Pryke) K Morgan 8 10 10 (6ex)	Mr R Forristal (5)
5	-5231	WARRLIN (12) (D) (Glasgow House Racing) C Fairhurst 5 10 9	M Horrocks (5)
6	00-341	BLACK BULLET (NZ) (28) (CD) (Alan Baxter) A Streeter 5 10 9	T Eley
7	12-02	SUNRISE SPECIAL (6) (D) (F A Landrigan) P Rodford 6 10 6	S Burrough
8	-03-224	FAIR AND FANCY (28) (F And F Partnership) Miss K Milligan 8 10 2	O Gallagher

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Marigliano, 11-4 Black Bullet, 11-2 Warrlin, 13-2 Duke's Mount, 10-1 Key Grip, Sunrise Special, Fair And Fancy, 14-1 Non Vintage

FORM GUIDE

Duke's Mount: Plumpton novice winner last January. On the upgrade when, ran well to 2 out, 10 lengths 6th of 10 to Once More For Luck at Wetherby (2m hcap, good) on handicap debut. Lightly raced and has scope for improvement

Key Grip: Up 4lb for sh-hd 2nd to Toshiba Talk at Newcastle (2m hcap, good to soft) and looked exposed when 12 lengths 2nd to Carracol over 2m3f here (soft) latest

Non Vintage: C/D winner from 31lb higher in 1996 but on the slide since and looked none too keen when well-beaten 8th to Tashreef here on latest hurdles outing. Fair efforts in novice chases since, but probably best watched

Marigliano: Raised 6lb for Haydock win over Norman Conquest, but again had plenty in hand when beating Cumbrian Maestro 2½ lengths at Catterick (2m hcap, good). Improving with every run and further 7lb increase may not stop him

Warrlin: Career-best effort when, led 4th, bt Kercham 6 lengths at Sedgefield (2m 1f hcap, soft). Lacks pace and will need very positive ride to defy 6lb rise

Black Bullet: Progressing with every run and beat previous winner Mr Busby 2 lengths in convincing style over C/D latest (soft). Interesting prospect on handicap debut

Sunrise Special: Struggling with 10lb rise for latest win. Not quicken flat when btn 2½ lengths by Whitebonnet at Exeter (2m3f hcap, hvy) latest and plenty to do again

Fair And Fancy: Running consistently, but latest 10-length 4th of 5 to Selberry over C/D (heavy) suggests a drop in the weights is needed to resume winning ways

VERDICT: It is difficult to oppose MARIGLIANO in his present mood. He had a ton in hand at Catterick, and a 7lb rise appears unlikely to stop him. Warrlin is also on the upgrade, but possibly needs farther now, and a bigger threat could be lightly-raced Black Bullet, whose latest course win suggests he has further potential.

2.45 BOSTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 3m Penalty Value £2,338

1	21/1/6	SPRINGFIELD SCALLY (12) (C) (Mrs M A Hall) S Gollings 6 11 3	R Dunwoody
2	24-5F0	BOMBADIL (24) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 7 10 10	R Farrant
3	P	FRENCH TALE (28) (W J Tolhurst) A H Harvey 6 10 10	J A McCarthy
4	0P-52F	JUSTUCE ALONE (33) (The Poppet Partnership) D Nicholson 6 10 10	R Johnson
5	3	SAIL ON SID (43) (C Wanless) J J O'Neill 5 10 10	R McGrath
6		SCHILLACHI (F2452) (Neal Hanson) R Bastiman 11 10 10	Miss V Roberts (7)
7	0/	THE COUNTRY DON (688) (R A Juggins) K Morgan 7 10 10	Mr R Forristal (5)
8	233453	CRUZ SANTA (12) (D Rimmer & S L Paisley) M Chapman 8 10 5	W Worthington
9	000/00	SINGING SCALLY (22) (S G Adams) W Clay 6 10 5	G Tormey

– 9 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Springfield Scally, 11-4 Justuce Alone, 7-2 Cruz Santa, 5-1 Sail On Sid, 12-1 Bombadil, 25-1 The Country Don, 33-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Springfield Scally: Winner of bumpers at Worcester, here and at Fakenham and a game winner on second hurdles start on this course when joint-favourite Fami departed at the second last when going well. Makes mistakes but likely to be well suited by this stamina test

Bombadil: Well beaten 7th to Mchattie at Newcastle last time and overall form doesn't look good enough for this

French Tale: Stoutly-bred but jumped badly at Folkestone and pulled up (race won by hotpot Kingsmark)

Justuce Alone: Fell 3rd at Wetherby last time but fine chance on his Ascot 2nd to Holborn Hill (ran well in defeat next time) over this trip

Sail On Sid: Once-raced bumper gelding (3rd to the smart Lord Of The Sky at Hexham) and out of a winning sprinter. Sure to have been well schooled and a leading contender in a weakish race

Schillachi: Stiff task on hurdles debut at the age of 11 (did little on the Flat)

The Country Don: Unraced since a debut bumper run (8th of 19 to Autumn Lord here) in February, 1997

Cruz Santa: Creditable 5th of 19 to Aussie Bob at Wetherby last month and just held (beaten a length and a half) by Springfield Scally here (2m3f) last time. 7lb better off today but not guaranteed to improve for this longer trip

Singing Scally: Moderate sort (7th to Polar Champ at Bangor last time) and now stepped up markedly in distance

VERDICT: Springfield Scally has still to master the art of jumping cleanly but connections believe him to be a true galloper so his chance has to be respected now that he's stepped up in distance. Justuce Alone can be fancied on his Ascot second to Holborn Hill but the vote goes to SAIL ON SID despite the question marks on his breeding. He met a good sort on his bumper debut and interestingly goes straight over hurdles.

3.15 GRANTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,250 added 3m Penalty Value £1,471

1	340-00	FIVE FLAGS (21) (C) (D) (Keith Middleton) Mrs S Smith 11 11 10	R Wilkinson
2	0-3240	TOPOTHENORTHRACING (21) (D) (Fourice Twenty) P Beaumont 9 11 7	B Grattan
3	506PU0	MR CHRISTIE (7) (D) (David Mann Partnership) Miss L Siddall 7 11 4	T Siddall
4	55P0-2	GRUNGE (33) (D) (Mrs R O Cowell) D Murray Smith 11 10 12	J Tizzard
5	6-4453	COPPEEN JEWEL (12) (D) (Fred Coulson) J J O'Neill 6 10 10	R McGrath B
6	U0-5PP	PALACE PARADE (USA) (8) (H S Channon) A Hobbs 8 10 8	R Widger
7	P-5002	ZAHAALIE (USA) (22) (Christian Wroe) J Pickering 7 10 6	J Goldstein
8	53025/	MRS ROBINSON (630) (V Wilson) J Mackie 8 10 3	E Husband
9	560-20	BLACK ICE BOY (33) (Mrs Judith Marshall) R Bastiman 8 10 2	H Bastiman
10	64-454	JOWOODY (12) (Tagwood Syndicate) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 0	G Lee
11	055000	EDDIE ROMBO (6) (S Birchall, D Sanderson) R Woodhouse 4 10 0	C McCormack

– 11 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Jowoody 9st 12lb, Eddie Rombo 8st 13lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Grunge, 4-1 Coppeen Jewel, 5-1 Topothenorthracing, Jowoody, 6-1 Zahaalie, 10-1 Five Flags, 12-1 Black Ice Boy, Mr Christie, 14-1 Mrs Robinson, Palace Parade, 25-1 Eddie Rombo

FORM GUIDE

Five Flags: Has twice won over longer trips than this and the ground was testing when he beat Milmount at Leicester (2m4f) last season (Grunge beaten 15 lengths). Has dropped to a favourable mark but two runs this season have produced very little (behind Topothenorthracing in a stronger race last time)

Topothenorthracing: Dual winner last season (both good ground) and fine 2nd to Cathedral Belle at Sedgefield on reappearance (good to soft). Has contested two better-class races since (7th to Tilty at Catterick last time) and leading chance in this league provided she copes with the ground

Mr Christie: All three wins gained at 3m or further but didn't take to chasing and reverted to hurdles last time (7th to Flat Top at Catterick). Not one to trust but every chance in this weak league on his best form

Grunge: At his best in a mud-slog over a trip. Races off 10lb lower mark than when last successful and Joe Tizzard booked. 2nd to Double Strike at Towcester (two previous wins there) on reappearance will have made him fitter

Coppeen Jewel: Has suffered with a breathing problem but leading chance in his first handicap after creditable showings in staying races. Blinkered when 4th to Lord Richfield at Stratford and again last time when a 3-length 3rd to Donnegale at Stratford (Jowoody 16 lengths behind)

Palace Parade: Only win gained in seller at Windsor and pulled up in that grade on both recent starts. Attempts longer trip today

Zahaalie: Selling winner at Bangor just over a year ago. Stayed on to fill 2nd place to The Brewmaster on that same course last time but something to prove over this extra mile

Mrs Robinson: Mare who got this trip well when a neck 2nd to Ansuro Again at Carlisle in March, 1997. First run today for 21 months but has a feather weight

Black Ice Boy: Out-and-out stayer on Flat and 2nd to Californseasons at Kelso (2m6f) before finding Aussie Bob race at Wetherby (2m4f) too hot. Should appreciate this three miles

Jowoody: Creditable 2nd to Ardent Scout last season and now having second run for Mrs Reveley after a 4th to Donnegale at Sedgefield (3m3f), finishing 16 lengths behind Coppeen Jewel (3rd) after fading from two out. May do better over this shorter trip and 5lb better off with Coppeen Jewel

Eddie Rombo: Tailed off in modest company and hard to fancy

VERDICT: This is the right grade for the mare Topothenorthracing but testing ground could count against her. On the other hand Grunge cannot have the ground soft enough and will take the beating in the hands of Joe Tizzard if there is a further downpour. Coppeen Jewel can also be fancied now that he tackles a handicap but JOWOODY might just reverse Boxing Day form with Jonjo O'Neill's gelding. The mare had sound form previously and can be expected to improve for the switch to Mary Reveley's stable.

3.45 CLEETHORPES STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 1m 5f 110yds

1	50	ESCALATE (38) (A K Collins) J J O'Neill 5 11 5	R McGrath
2		ALWAYS WAYWARD (Wood Racing) W Kemp 4 10 7	R Dunwoody
3		BOURBON STREET (USA) (C W Cooper) Mrs A E Johnson 4 10 7	R Johnson
4		FIFTEEN REDS (J Roundtree) D Shaw 4 10 7	M Horrocks (5)
5		GHOST MOON (Mrs O Brudenell-Bruce) T Easterby 4 10 7	R Thornton
6		NADDER (I Fox) B Ellison 4 10 7	C McCormack (3)
7		WERE NOT STOPPIN (Robin Bastiman) R Bastiman 4 10 7	H Bastiman (5)
8		CURSEY LADY (Mrs P Izamis) O O'Neill 4 10 2	H Oliver (5)

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 10-11 Ghost Moon, 7-2 Fifteen Reds, 6-1 Escalate, 7-1 Bourbon Street, 10-1 Always Wayward, 12-1 Were Not Stoppin, 14-1 Nadder, 16-1 Cursey Lady

FORM GUIDE

Escalate: Shaped well enough in 5th to Becca's Rose at Carlisle but beaten long way in Matt Holland's race at Worcester – both runs in testing ground. Today's shorter trip looks a help for this half-brother to a Flat winner

Always Wayward: Terimon gelding newcomer from a yard not renowned for bumper winners, though chance has increased for the assistance of Richard Dunwoody

Bourbon Street: American-bred newcomer son of Dixie Brass. One to note if there is a market move in its favour, and his jockey rode the bumper winner at Musselburgh yesterday

Fifteen Reds: Gelded son of Jumbo Hirt and with a capable 5lb claimer booked

Ghost Moon: The likely favourite, being a son of Cadeaux Genereux out of a Shirley Heights mare, and from a stable always to be respected in these races

Nadder: Well-bred gelding (Lion Cavern out of Northern Dancer mare) but probably best watched

Were Not Stoppin: Newcomer gelded son of Mystiko and likely to need the run

Cursey Lady: Filly newcomer by Au Bon. Probably best watched

VERDICT: It was on this course many moons ago that the mighty Night Nurse won his first hurdle race, and the Easterby yard has picked the same venue for the introduction of GHOST MOON. And with stable jockey Lorcan Wyer in action at Catterick, connections have gone for a real super-sub in Robert Thornton.

CATTERICK

HYPERION

12.30 Uniform 1.00 Birkdale (nb) 1.30 Sounds Devious 2.00 Sunrise Sensation 2.35 Ibn Masirah 3.05 Hopeful Lord 3.35 Cartoft Dancer

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).
■ Left-hand, undulating, sharp course. Not suitable for long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.
■ Course is NW of town on A6136. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £8; Course £2.50 (under 16s free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved area £2, remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 24-109 (22%), M Hammond 15-134 (11.2%), G M Moore 13-73 (17.8%), Mrs S Smith 13-99 (13.1%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 26-90 (28.9%), R Garritty 14-76 (18.4%), A S Smith 13-93 (14%), B Storey 13-150 (8.7%).
FAVOURITES: 114 wins from 321 races (35.5%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: First Gold (1.30), Deel Quay (visored, 3.05), Jack Flash (visored, 3.35).

12.30 HALIFAX NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

1	-544R0	BANAWAR (USA) (15) D Carroll 5 11 5	A C Coyle (5)
2		GET THE POINT (F87) S Gollings 5 11 5	B Powell
3	0	GRAND MUSICA (22) M Wilkinson 6 11 5	W Marston
4		JULMAT JOHN (F29) E Alston 7 11 5	L Cummins (3)
5	50	NICODEMUS (21) T Easterby 5 11 5	L Wyer
6	1-00	RATHURE (27) J Curtis 7 11 5	D McPhail (5)
7	060-0	ROCKY MY BOY (22) Mrs S Smith 5 11 5	Mr J Crowley (5)
8	20300-	SAN FRANCISCO (232) A Whillans 5 11 5	B Storey
9	000	TARRA (42) Mrs O Sayer 5 11 5	M Gault (7)
10	05	THE LAMBTON WORM (7) N Bycroft 5 11 5	M Foster
11	00PF-	BLAZING HOLLY (296) R Wood 7 11 0	Mr J Young (7)
12	0-	ROLLING PATCH (F12) E Alston 5 11 0	P Niven
13		ACADEMY (F20) A Turnell 4 10 7	Mr C Rae
14		CADILLAC JUKEBOX (F83) G M Moore 4 10 7	N Hannity (7)
15	320	DANGERMAN (18) M W Easterby 4 10 7	R Garritty
16		MADMAN'S MIRAGE (F6) V Thompson 4 10 7	Mr M Thompson
17	P	THE CANNIE ROVER (10) M W Easterby 4 10 7	F Leahy
18	60	ALL OUR BLESSINGS (9) Mrs A Swinbank 4 10 2	J Supple
19	4	UNIFORM (10) Miss S Hall 4 10 2	S Durack

– 19 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Nicodemus, 7-2 Uniform, 4-1 Dangerman, 8-1 Academy, 10-1 San Francisco, 14-1 Cadillac Jukebox, Grand Musica, Rathure, Rolling Patch, The Lambton Worm, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Several no-hopers in an ordinary race. UNIFORM did more than enough to suggest she can win at this level last week, and very soft ground is likely to ensure she gets the test of stamina she seems to need. Both the likeliest threats, Nicodemus and Dangerman, need to put a poor run behind them.

1.00 WAKEFIELD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

1	1F-215	BIRKDALE (16) (CD) (BF) L Lungo 8 11 12	R Supple
2	-22021	SCOTTON GREEN (5) T Easterby 8 11 12	L Wyer
3	3-32OP	PRIMITIVE HEART (21) H Alexander 7 11 5	A P McCoy
4	PU-	SMITHS WYND (271) R Shiels 7 11 5	B Storey

– 4 declared –

BETTING: 4-5 Scotton Green, 6-5 Birkdale, 16-1 Primitive Heart, 66-1 Smiths Wynd

FORM VERDICT

This only concerns BIRKDALE and Scotton Green and on very soft ground Birkdale should win. However his jumping lacked confidence last time and if he continues in the same vein today Scotton Green is more than capable of taking advantage.

1.30 BRADFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 added 2m

1	50-10R	MONIS (12) (CD) (BF) B Ellison 8 11 10	A P McCoy
2	555455	HELM WIND (12) M Barnes 8 10 12	S Taylor
3	/3-040	SOUNDS DEVIOUS (24) A Whillans 6 10 12	I Jardine (7)
4	U4403	JAGO (8) M W Easterby 4 10 7	R Garritty B
5	0-P653	FATHER EDDIE (12) M Sowersby 5 10 5	Mr J Crowley (5) V
6	0/0084	FIRST GOLD (8) A Smith 10 10 0	B Storey B
7	00P0PF	MEADOWLECK (43) W Young 10 10 0	J Supple

– 7 declared –

Minimum: 10st. True handicap weights: First Gold 9st 9lb, Meadowleck 9st 5lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Monis, 4-1 Jago, Sounds Devious, 11-2 Father Eddie, 8-1 Helm Wind, 8-1 First Gold, 33-1 Meadowleck

FORM VERDICT

An uncompetitive affair. Monis has an obvious chance on his best form, but there are doubts about him on the score of temperament and stamina (unproven under testing conditions). Better value may be represented by FATHER EDDIE.

2.00 WL & HECTOR CHRISTIE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (F) £3,500 2m

1	2-1F52	BALLESWHIDDEN (22) (CD) R Fahey 7 12 0	L Wyer
2	024-61	AMLWCH (27) (D) J Berry 8 11 11	B Powell
3	3500-2	ECLIPTIC MOON (12) (D) C Pogson 8 11 2	N Bentley
4	-5102	BIYA (44) D McCain 7 10 9	T J Murphy
5	643-10	SUNRISE SENSATION (31) (D) R McDonald 8 10 3	R Supple
6	F04OP3	SANDRIFT (7) Miss A Stokell 10 10 0	S Durack V

– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Sandrift 9st 3lb.
BETTING: 15-8 Amlwch, 11-4 Balleswhidden, 4-1 Sunrise Sensation, 5-1 Biya, 10-1 Ecliptic Moon, 16-1 Sandrift

FORM VERDICT

BALESWHIDDEN in not a confident selection as he has to give a lot of weight away on very testing ground but he will appreciate the return to 2m and looks the safest choice as there is a doubt about main rival Amlwch on this ground. If there is to be a turn up it could come from Sandrift, who ran a fair race last time.

2.35 LEEDS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m 3f

1	40PP0-	MARCHANT MING (253) H Alexander 7 11 10	Mr T J Barry (7)
2	13-056	MARAUD (12) (C) S Bell 5 11 10	M H Naughton (5)
3	403131	HUNTING SLANE (9) (C) (D) C Grant 7 11 8 (7ex)	R Supple
4	44403-	CLAIRE'S DANCER (315) A Turnell 8 10 12	C Sangster (7)
5	-34523	GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT (23) H Alexander 6 10 9	A P McCoy
6	40-051	CRABBIE'S PRIDE (22) (CD) Mrs S Smith 8 10 4	Mr J Crowley (5)
7	1P0-06	IBN MASIRAH (22) Mrs M Reveley 5 10 0	L Wyer B
8	00-353	TANSEEQ (22) (C) M Meagher 8 10 0	D Byrne
9	54212O	MY SALTARELLO (33) M Barnes 5 10 0	S Taylor

– 9 declared –

Minimum: 10st. True handicap weights: Tanseeq 9st 11lb, My Saltarello 9st 9lb.
BETTING: 100-30 Crabbie's Pride, 7-2 Hunting Slane, 5-1 Claire's Dancer, 11-2 Golden Thunderbolt, 6-1 Ibn Masirah, 10-1 Maraud, 12-1 Tanseeq, My Saltarello, 25-1 Marchant Ming

FORM VERDICT

With question-marks against Hunting Slane (trip and ground) and Golden Thunderbolt (ground), this looks a good opportunity for CRABBIE'S PRIDE to record a fourth C/D victory. He can be a hard ride, but went kindly for today's amateur rider last time.

3.05 ILKLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

1	13U-21	FLAT TOP (7) (CD) M W Easterby 8 11 11	Mr M Watson
2	25-0PP	BRAMBLEBERRY (22) Mrs S Smith 10 11 6	Mr J Crowley (5)
3	5-2113	HOPEFUL LORD (36) (D) J J O'Neill 7 11 0	A P McCoy
4	F0-301	LA RIVIERA (22) (C) J Charlton 7 10 12	B Storey
5	3-PF21	SILLARS STALKER (12) (D) Miss S Williamson 11 10 5	R Garritty
6	35-3P0	GALEN (38) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 1	Mr A Dempsey (3) B
7	P6-0P0	DAWN LAD (22) Miss S Williamson 10 10 0	S Durack
8	31-6PP	DEEL QUAY (28) (D) Mrs J Buckley 8 10 0	W Marston V
9	5804-U	MARLINGFORD (12) (C) Mrs J Jordan 12 10 0	T J Murphy
10	/61U4-	ARTHUR BEE (310) (C) B Bousfield 12 10 0	S Taylor
11	0350F3	EXCISE MAN (12) J B Walton 11 10 0	O Parker

– 11 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Dawn Lad & Deel Quay 9st 7lb, Marlingford 9st 4lb, Arthur Bee 9st 1lb, Excise Man 8st 10lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Sillars Stalker, 3-1 Hopeful Lord, 100-30 Flat Top, 11-2 La Riviera, 12-1 Galen, 14-1 Brambleberry, 20-1 Deel Quay, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Flat Top will be popular after his easy win here over hurdles last week. However, he comes up against an up-and-coming young chaser in HOPEFUL LORD and the concession of 11lb may be too much. Jonjo O'Neill's gelding goes well in the soft and with Tony McCoy booked, looks to have solid claims

3.35 HUDDERSFIELD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m

1		BARTON BILL J Mackie 6 11 5	S Durack
2	0-	CARTOFT DANCER (324) T Easterby 6 11 5	Mr J P McNamara (5)
3		HIGHLAND GHILLIE L Lungo 5 11 5	I Jardine (7)
4	00-	JACK FLASH (331) S Kettlewell 5 11 5	Mr A Evans (7) V
5	03	JOHNNY JOE (22) (BF) L Lungo 6 11 5	Mr B Gibson (7)
6	00/2	OPEN FAIRWAY (21) W Storey 6 11 5	L Cummins (3)
7		ZAAMAIN N Waggott 5 11 5	M Hannity (7)
8		JUMBO ROSE A Eubank 5 11 0	L Cooper (7)
9	00-0	MARTHA'S MOONSTONE (37) J Charlton 5 11 0	Mr M Bradburne (3)
10		RUSSIAN PRINCE J Curtis 4 10 7	O McPhail (5)
11		SUPER NOMAD M W Easterby 4 10 7	Mr A Dempsey (3)
12		HOLLYFIELD R Wood 4 10 2	Miss O Jones
13		TYNEMINE B Ellison 4 10 2	Mr J Crowley (5)

– 13 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Open Fairway, 11-4 Johnny Joe, 9-2 Cartoft Dancer, 8-1 Barton Bill, 7-1 Highland Ghillie, 10-1 Super Nomad, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

As with all bumpers the market will be the best guide but OPEN FAIRWAY ran well here last month and will be difficult to beat if reproducing that form. Johnny Joe is the obvious alternative and Barton Bill's place in the market will be interesting.

Gooch queries players' desire

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON

GRAHAM GOOCH yesterday re-emphasised the oeed for a stronger domestic system in the aftermath of this winter's Ashes failure – and revealed grave personal concerns about the desire of England's players to improve.

England's 3-1 defeat was only partially compensated by their memorable 12-run victory in Melbourne and a competitive display during the 93-run final Test defeat in Sydney which stretched Australia's unbeateo series victories to six.

Gooch, the England tour manager, believes the county system must be improved and players need to become more aware of the sacrifices required. He is insistent that English cricket must address the problem or suffer many more years of demoralising defeats against the world's best teams.

"We haven't really played our best cricket in the early part of the series. The key is to reproduce it consistently and I don't think things will improve until we build from the bottom upwards," he stressed.

"We need to develop our whole game over a long period of time and then when players come into the highest level they are going to be better equipped for it. Our domestic system has to be much stronger and leaner and have only the best players involved – if you're not good enough you don't play. When we get that right and the cricket's tough and more akin to what they face in Test cricket then I think we'll see the benefit.

"You will get tougher, stronger characters who are more resilient. There are not many who come straight into Test cricket and hit it straight off and if people think that our domestic cricket is serving us well, producing quality Test players and hardened, competitive Test players then I think they are misguided."

Gooch's criticisms have partly beeo addressed hy the counties' historic agreement to accept a two-division County Championship, hut more worrying is the failure of existing players to identify the work ethic involved at Test level. Gooch claimed: "Every player in the UK playing county cricket aspires to play for England. but do they know what they need to do and what they need to sacrifice to achieve that? When you talk to players about doing this and that to improve they all agree, but when they go away they doo't do anything about it. The motivation to get to the top comes from within – coaches and advisors can help you hut the drive has got to come from the person.

"You have to put the game first and things you need to do to be fit for your joh or practice or whatever. I don't think you'll see Steve Waugh lacking in preparation, and I'm sure the Pete Samprases of this world don't get to their level without putting in the time in pursuit of that excellence."

Gooch stressed that removing the coach, David Lloyd, is unlikely to bring a change of fortunes without the players to achieve it. "David Lloyd bas worked tremendously hard with the team and he feels this defeat very much because we've worked hard to put together a tight unit," he said. "It's a mistake to remove the coach because you can't remove the players – the best players in the UK are here give or take a couple of names.

"We've had three coaches since Micky Stewart and the results have marginally improved although they are still a little bit roller-coaster and I don't think it's right to blame the coach."

Gooch believes one possible answer is to remove overseas players from the domestic game and invest their large salaries on developing home-grown talent. "I have nothing against them in principle, but to take £100,000 out of the wage bill for ooe player, you have to ask whether that is money well speot?"

■ Shane Warne is to lead Australia's one-day team in the absence of injured captain, Steve Waugh. The latter's twin brother, Mark, was chosen as vice-captain in the 14-man squad picked for the first five matches of the triangular series against England and Sri Lanka.

Australia squad, Digest, page 27

South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and team-mate Daryll Cullinan celebrate as Curtly Ambrose is given out yesterday *Reuters*

S Africa meet late resistance

BY TONY COZIER
in Cape Town

S Africa 406-8 dec & 226-7 dec
West Indies 212 & 271
South Africa win by 149 runs

SOUTH AFRICA duly rounded off their fourth successive victory over the West Indies yesterday hy the irrefutable margin of 149 runs. But they had their celebrations delayed until an hour-and-a-quarter after lunch as they encountered their first genuine resistance for the match.

With their fragile top order swept aside on the previous afternoon, the West Indies' position was hopeless as they resumed at 93 for 6 after Hansie Cronje's second declaration left them an unrealistic 421 to win.

For a change, the lower order did not offer its usual meek surreoder. With the left-handed wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs weighing in with a solid, unbeaten 69, the last four wickets raised 178 from the day's 51.4 overs before man of the match Jacques Kallis completed South Africa's triumph with the secood new ball and his fifth wicket to add to his scores of 110 and 86 not out. It elevated him into a small band with eight others who have had such a profound all-round influence on a Test match.

"It was nice for us to do some clapping today," the West Indies captain, Brian Lara, himself out in the last over the previous day, acknowledged. "The lower order showed that the South African attack can be dealt with if we do it in a proper manner."

The overdue West Indian fight provided unexpected entertainment for a remarkable crowd of 7,200 which, with entrance reduced to R5 (55p), turned out for what appeared likely to be less than an hour's cricket.

South Africa were clearly handicapped by the strained hamstring that prevented Allan Donald from bowling and by a couple of dropped catches to add to the four in the first innings. For the first time in the series, their fielding was not exceptional and Jacohs and the fast-bowling trio of Nixon McLean, Curtly Ambrose and Merv Dillon prospered.

Jacobs, appearing in his debut series at the age of 31, has been the outstanding exception to the overall West Indian mediocrity. He has taken several breathtaking catches in the four Tests thus far and his hatting has been solid and uncomplicated. Dropped from a difficult catch in the gully in the day's first over before he had scored, he remained to the end, undefeated after three and a quarter hours, his 10 boundaries evidence of his prompt dispatch of the bad ball.

After Ottis Gibson was run out by Jonty Rhodes for 13, Jacobs added 65 with McLean, 34 with Curtly Ambrose and 64 for the last wicket with Dillon.

McLean, also left-handed, helted three hig sixes in his 39, the third into the adjoining Newlands railway station at midwicket, Amhrose made 19 off 34 balls and Dillon's five boundaries in 36 were executed with a bent knee and a flourishing straight bat as Everton Weekes used to do it.

It was always going to be in vain but at least it lifted the spirits of the West Indies who now face their first 5-0 loss ever with the final Test starting at Centurion Park outside Pretoria on 15 January.

The captain, Hansie Cronje, said the prospect of a series whitewash was oot a special consideration for him.

"We have been motivated throughout," he said. "I don't think the fact that we can make it 5-0 will add anything to that. We want to win every Test match we play, whatever the state of the series. But it might just add a little hit more spark to them."

Although the series has heen decided, the South African selectors once again resisted mounting pressure from the Sports Minister Steve Tshwete to choose more non-white players in the team. They announced the same squad of 12 in which opener Herschelle Gibhs and left-arm spinner Paul Adams, both mixed race "coloured" under the old apartheid classification, are the only non-whites.

Fifth day; South Africa won toss
SOUTH AFRICA – First Innings 406-8 dec (D J Cullinan 168, J H Kallis 110).
WEST INDIES – First Innings 212 (C L Hooper 86).
SOUTH AFRICA – Second Innings 226-7 dec (J H Kallis 88no, W J Cronje 54).
WEST INDIES – Second Innings
(Overnight: 93-6)

†R D Jacobs not out	69
O D Gibson run out	13
N A M McLean c Adams b Kallis	39
C E L Ambrose c Kirsten b Adams	19
M Dillon c Cronje b Kallis	36
Extras (lb2 nb12)	14
Total	271

Fall: 1-2 2-7 3-15 4-47 5-87 6-87 7-108 8-173 9-207.
Bowling: Pollock 25-3-49-2 (1nb); Kallis 27.4-4-90-5; Cronje 1-1-0-0; Terbrugge 11-4-40-0; Adams 23-5-80-2; Cullinan 4-1-10-0.

Did not bat: P J Wiseman, S B Doull.
Fall (cont): 7-372 8-464.
Bowling: Prasad 33-8-75-1; R Singh jr 19-3-102-1 (1w); Srinath 27-6-90-1 (5nb); Kumble 45.5-13-124-2; Tendulkar 7-0-30-2; Ganguly 6-1-27-0 (3nb).
INDIA – Second Innings

A D Jadeja c Parore b Cairns	21
N S Sidhu b Cairns	13
R S Dravid not out	103
S C Ganguly not out	101
Extras (lb9 nb2)	11
Total (for 2)	249

Did not bat: *S R Tendulkar, M Azharuddin, †N R Mongia, A Kumble, J Srinath, B K Venkatesh Prasad, R Singh jnr.*
Fall: 1-33 2-55.
Bowling: Doull 4-0-17-0; Cairns 9-1-30-2; McMillan 17-4-59-0; Wiseman 12-0-80-0; Twose 9.1-0-50-0; Horne 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: D B Cowie (NZ) and R E Koertzen (SA).

Cairns the rock as Kiwis force draw to clinch series

NEW ZEALAND yesterday won their home series against India after forcing a draw with a solid second-innings score in the third and final Test in Hamilton.

New Zealand took the series 1-0 by virtue of their four-wicket win in the second Test in Wellington. The first Test, in Dunedin, was abandoned to rain without a ball bowled.

New Zealand put an Indian victory out of reach on the final day with a mighty second innings, led by a punishing 126 from Chris Cairns, who was awarded man of the match. The all-rounder also took six wickets in the match.

When Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, declared at 464 for 8 13 minutes after lunch, India were 414 runs behind and could only hope to see off an unlikely defeat. Their task was made eveo easier after injuries forced New Zealand to take the field without two of its specialist bowlers.

Dion Nash had back pain and Daniel Vettori went to bospital for a precautionary X-ray on a finger hurt in fielding practice. Simon Doull was suffering heat-stroke hut bowled four overs.

With little left to salvage from the match except some pride, India's Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly hammered New Zealand's part-time bowlers and both reached unbeaten centuries by stumps.

Fleming said he had delayed his declaration because he wanted to make sure the Indians were out of the game. "The pitch had hardly deteriorated and there was oo way we could have bowled them out. Also, three of our howlers were injured or ill," he said.

This was India's third defeat in consecutive away series against New Zealand, which Ansbuman Gaekwad, the India coach, blamed on poor catching and a lack of bowling firepower.

"We batted all right and the bowling wasn't too bad, although there is no doubt that three strike bowlers were not enough to beat this fine side," he said.

The failure of India's openers during the tour was another disappointment for the visitors. Ajay Jadeja and Navjot Sidhu went cheaply in all four Test innings played in the series.

Final day; India won toss
NEW ZEALAND – First Innings 366 (M J Horne 67, R G Twose 67; J Srinath 5-95).
INDIA – First Innings 416 (R S Dravid 190, S R Tendulkar 67, J Srinath 76; C L Cairns 4-107).
NEW ZEALAND – Second Innings
(Overnight: 323 1or 6)

C L Cairns c Dravid b Kumble	126
D J Nash run out	63
D L Vettori not out	43
Extras (b9 lb7 w1 nb8)	25
Total (for 8 dec)	464

New Zealand 366 & 464-8 dec
India 416 & 249-2
Match drawn
New Zealand win series 1-0

Rangers handed another big draw

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

EGREMONT RANGERS, the amateurs who reached the last 16 of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year, will fancy their chances of making progress again after drawing York in the third round yesterday.

The Cumbrian side beat their professional neighbours, Workington Town, last time, while York have twice gone out to amateurs in recent years.

Other sides who cannot afford to be over-confideot include Bramley, who are at home to Leigh Miners Rangers, and Workington, who have to beat the leaders of the National Conference, Skirlaugh from Humberside, if they are to avoid a second ignominious season.

Doncaster, who have been in turmoil during the winter, lost to Featherstone Lions last year and face another poteotial banana skin in the shape of Oldham St Annes.

The ties, which guarantee home ground advantage to the professional clubs, will be played on the weekend of 30 and 31 January. The 13 participating Super League cluhs – Gatesbead have decided not to enter the Cup – join the competition in the fourth round.

Last year's Challenge Cup winners, the Sheffield Eagles, have cootinued their restructuring for the coming season by signing the St Helens utility player, Paul Anderson, at the third attempt. Sheffield are paying £10,000 for the Great Britain Academy international, whose appearances for Saints were mainly as a versatile substitute.

The Eagles' coach, John Kear, believes that Anderson will thrive on a more regular role with Sheffield. "His arrival will compensate in the forwards for some of the key players who have left," he said.

The Hull chief executive, Brian Callam, has criticised the Rugby League tribunal's ruling that they will only receive £25,000 from the Bradford Bulls for another Academy international forward, Lee Radford. Radford played in the second row in both under-19 Tests against France last season and is generally regarded as one of the brightest young prospects in the country. "I thought we would get a lot more for him," said Callam.

Meanwhile, Bradford have re-appointed their New Zealand international, Robbie Paul, as team captain. Paul will oow captain his elder brother, Henry, who has been recruited from Wigan, during the coming season.

Another senior professional, Steve McNamara, takes over from the younger Paul as the club captain. He has also been awarded the loose forward's No 13 shirt, superseding Sonny Nickle, who has moved to St Helens as a free agent.

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Third-round draw: Barrow v Dudley Hill; Batley v Castleford Lock Lane; Bramley v Leigh Miners Rangers; Dewsbury v Siddal; Doncaster v Oldham St Annes; Featherstone Rovers v Thornhill; Hemel Stags v Featherstone Lions; Hull KR v Wath Brow Hornets; Hunslet v Townville; Keighley v Rochdale Mayfield; Lancashire Lynx v Askam; Leigh v Norland; Oldham v Eccles; Rochdale v Wigan St Judes; Swinton v Moldgreen; Whitehaven v Saddleworth; Widnes v West Hull; Workington v Skirlaugh; York v Egremont. *(Ties to be played on 30 or 31 January).*

LINGFIELD

HYPERION

12.50 Castle Ashby Jack 1.20 Krystal Max 1.50 Star Turn 2.25 Mere Slad 2.55 Cantgetyourbreath 3.25 Harvey White 3.55 Half Tide

GOING: Standard (All-weather surface).
STALLS: Inside, except 5f (outside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 7f.
■ Left-hand, sharp course. Equitrack surface.
■ Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** One Enclosure £10. **CAR PARK:** Club £3; rest free.
■ *LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 83-628 (13.3%), R Hannon 47-357 (13.2%), M Johnston 44-260 (16.9%), Miss G Kelleway 41-281 (14.6%).*
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A Clark 72-574 (12.5%), J Weaver 68-307 (22.1%), S Sanders 65-563 (11.5%), R Cochrane 52-323 (16.1%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 691-2071 (33.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Blue Dawn (12.50), Mawkab (2.25), Northern Sun (3.25), Dawn Treader (3.25), Melben (wooed, 2.25).

12.50 RED GAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 7f

1 2031- MEADOW LEADER (28) (CD) C Dond (Bel) 9 8 11 ..P Roberts (3) 6
2 00000- CAMPIONE (19) M Tompkins 4 9 8 ..G Faulkner (3) 11
3 00033- CASTLE ASHBY JACK (18) (CD) P Howling 5 9 6 ..T Williams 4
4 0000-0 CONCER ARALL (2) P Evans 5 9 6 ..Dane O'Neill 14
5 5080- DARK MENACE (159) (D) E Wheeler 7 8 8 ..S Carson (7) 12 B
6 352-34 FRIENDLY BRAVE (2) (C D) Miss G Kelleway 9 9 6 ..W Ryan 7
7 0005-0 JUSTINIANUS (6) (C) J Bridger 7 8 8 ..G Bardwell 15
8 /0500- MOI CANARD (252) (CD) B Pearce 8 9 6 ..Martin Dwyer 8 B
9 05504- PRIVATE SEAL (29) J C Poulton 4 9 6 ..P Doe (5) 16 B
10 1150- STRIMMER (38) (D) C Dond (Bel) 11 9 6 ..O Pears 9
11 00640- ULTRA BEET (19) (C) R Flower 7 9 8 ..S Drowne 10 B
12 0000-6 WILD CITY (USA) (3) R Marvin 5 9 6 ..S Righton (7) 3
13 0550-5 BLUE DAWN (6) B Johnson 4 9 1 ..N Day 13 B
14 1306- FRANKIE FAIR (134) (D) (BF) G L Moore 4 8 1 ..M Wigham 2
15 13550- HEVERGOLF PRINCESS (155) (CD) T J Naughton 4 8 1 ..T Sprake 5
16 000/0- SMALL RISK (108) J Hills 5 9 1 ..A Clark 1
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 11-2 Frankie Fair, 6-1 Friendly Brave, 7-1 Hevergolf Princess, 8-1 Meadow Leader, 10-1 Blue Dawn, Castle Ashby Jack, Dark Menace, Private Seal, Ultra Beet, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Quite an interesting seller, with one or two worth close attention in the market, not least the interesting Blue Dawn. Preference though is for the better-drawn FRANKIE FAIR. If she is anywhere near her best – and it is an 'if' – she would have an excellent chance in this company.

1.20 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 5f

1 0041-2 ANOKATO (6) (CD) T Mills 5 9 3 ..L Carter 3 B
2 1036-1 KRYSTAL MAX (2) (CD) T D Barron 8 9 1 ..Kimberley Hart (5) 1
3 15000- SOUND THE TRUMPET (37) (CD) R Spicer 7 8 5 ..S Whitworth 2
4 56006- DANDE TIMES (16) (D) K Ivory 4 8 3 ..C Catlin (7) 4 B
– 4 declared –

BETTING: evens Krystal Max, 6-4 Anokato, 8-1 Dande Times, 10-1 Sound The Trumpet

FORM VERDICT

KRYSTAL MAX, in form and with a marked advantage at the weights, will be extremely hard to beat. Anokato is the only realistic alternative.

1.50 GET MARRIED AT LINGFIELD HANDICAP (F) (DIV I) £2,750 added 1m 2f

1 6102- ROMAN REEL (29) (CD) G L Moore 8 9 10 ..Candy Morris 3
2 1631- THE GREEN GREY (44) (C) D Morris 5 9 8 ..A Clark 1
3 00000- SHAMWARI SONG (18) N Callaghan 4 9 3 ..J P Spencer (3) 7
4 00533- BEGUILE (9) B Johnson 5 8 13 ..T Sprake 4
5 25004- STAR TURN (19) R Flower 5 8 11 ..Dane O'Neill 8
6 00100- PRIORS MOOR (17) R Armstrong 4 8 7 ..R Price 6
7 30000- HURGILL DANCER (19) R O'Sullivan 5 8 5 ..N Carlisle 5
8 44062- GOLDEN LYRIC (18) J Pearce 4 7 13 ..G Bardwell 9
9 00660- LIFT BOY (USA) (12) (C) P Burgoyne 10 7 10 ..F Norton 2
– 9 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Lift Boy 7st 9lb.
BETTING: 3-1 The Green Grey, 4-1 Roman Reel, 11-2 Beguile, Star Turn, 6-1 Golden Lyric, 8-1 Hurgill Dancer, 10-1 Priors Moor, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Question marks over most of these including The Green Grey, who would probably be a good thing if this was over a mile but whose stamina is in doubt. Beguile is another who has to prove his stamina so the percentage call may be with GOLDEN LYRIC, who has left the impression this is probably his optimum distance.

2.25 WAVERLEY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 6f

1 20423- AJNAD (16) (BF) R Marvin 5 9 10 ..S Righton (7) 8
2 IMPERIAL ENVOY W Muir 4 8 10 ..Martin Dwyer 3
3 658- MAWKAB (17) Miss D Kelleway 4 9 10 ..S Whitworth 10 B
4 0/043- JONATHAN'S GIRL (8) J Bridger 4 8 5 ..G Bardwell 6
5 00052- PEARLY QUEEN (8) O Bravery 4 9 5 ..A Polli (5) 5
6 00- ADMIRALS PLACE (176) R Armstrong 3 8 8 ..A Clark 2
7 MELBEN J Noseda 3 8 8 ..G Carter 4 V
8 SUPREME SALUTATION T D Barron 3 8 8 ..O Pears 1
9 0- WILD THING (110) R Hannon 3 8 8 ..Dane O'Neill 7
10 05- MERE SLAD (8) A P Jones 3 8 3 ..S Drowne 9
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Melben, 9-2 Ajnad, 5-1 Imperial Envoy, 6-1 Mawkab, 9-1 Mere Slad, 16-1 Pearly Queen, Supreme Salutation, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

With three newcomers from stables that have to be respected and two other lightly-raced sorts from good yards, the betting needs watching. But AJNAD sets a fair standard for them to aim at with solid form in handicap company and his experience round here is a good asset.

2.55 LINGFIELD PARK ANTIQUES FAIR HANDICAP (D) £5,250 added 3YO 6f

1 33031- PRINCE PROSPECT (5) (CD) Mrs L Stubbs 9 12 (Ex) ..J P Spencer (3) 2
2 22424- POLLY MILLS (9) P Evans 9 7 ..Dane O'Neill 6 V
3 52521- BARTHOLOMEW (43) (CD) T J Naughton 8 13 ..T Sprake 3
4 50141- SEREN TEG (18) (CD) B Palling 8 12 ..G Faulkner (3) 8
5 04040- THOMAS HENRY (90) J S Moore 8 10 ..T O'Neill (7) 7
6 31462- CANTGETYOURBREATH (15) (D) B Meehan 8 8 ..G Hannon (7) 1 B
7 6522- DOLLY DAY DREAM (150) (D) K Ivory 8 6 ..C Catlin (7) 4
8 0163-6 GLASTONBURY (5) (C) P Howling 7 11 ..J Quinn 5
9 004- IDA'S COTTAGE (27) P Chamings 7 10 ..G Bardwell 9
– 9 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Ida's Cottage 7st 1lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Bartholomew, 9-2 Seren Teg, Cantgetyourbreath, 5-1 Prince Prospect, 7-1 Polly Mills, Dolly Day Dream, 8-1 Glastonbury, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A fast start is essential over 6f and CANTGETYOURBREATH is ideally berthed to make the most of his front-running tactics. He has a clear chance of beating Seren Tag and through her, Polly Mills and Bartholomew at today's weights although the last-named is likely to improve so has to be feared.

3.25 IVANHOE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 5f

1 20600- NORTHERN SUN (44) T Mills 5 9 11 ..Lisa Hackett (7) 4 E
2 3065- NOUKARI (8) (CD) (BF) P Evans 6 9 11 ..T O McLaughlin 5
3 0630-1 MYSTAGOGUE (5) (C) R Hannon 4 9 9 ..Dane O'Neill 1
4 2653- DOUBLE FLIGHT (17) Miss B Sanders 5 9 9 ..A Clark 6
5 3630-2 HARVEY WHITE (8) J Pearce 7 6 1 ..A Polli (5) 6
6 00000- TAZKIYA (131) R Ingram 4 7 12 ..G Bardwell 2
7 0020-0 SAPPHIRE SON (6) P Clarke 7 7 10 ..S Righton (7) 3
8 0208-5 DAWN TREADER (9) J S Moore 4 7 10 ..A Nicholls (5) 7 B
– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Sapphire Son & Dawn Treader 7st 9lb.
BETTING: 2-1 Harvey White, 5-2 Noukari, 7-2 Mystagogue, 7-1 Double Flight, 12-1 Sapphire Son, 16-1 Northern Sun, 20-1 Tazkiya, 25-1 Dawn Treader

FORM VERDICT

Now that he seems to be getting his act together on AW, HARVEY WHITE holds strong claims today. Last week's second here looks solid and he is taken to fall recent course winners Mystagogue and Noukari.

3.55 GET MARRIED AT LINGFIELD HANDICAP (F) (DIV II) £2,750 added 1m 2f

1 2252- PROSPECTOR'S COVE (8) (CD) J Pearce 8 9 11 ..R Price 7
2 6323-2 CONFRONTER (6) (CD) S Dow 10 9 4 ..P Doe (5) 8
3 00263- ZADA (5) G L Moore 4 9 3 ..M Wigham 4 B
4 00522- LILANITA (33) B Palling 4 8 11 ..G Faulkner (3) 6
5 0062-2 HALF TIDE (8) P Mitchell 5 8 8 ..N Day 2
6 60000- SABRE BUTT (17) M Tompkins 4 8 5 ..G Bardwell 3 B
7 00053- KANAWA (12) A P Jones 5 7 10 ..F Norton 5
8 00/00- PERSEPHONE (27) C Allen 8 7 10 ..N Carlisle 1 B
– 8 declared –

Minimum: 7st 10lb. True h'cap weights: Kanawa 7st 8lb, Persephone 6st 11lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Half Tide, 7-2 Prospector's Cove, 9-2 Confronter, 5-1 Lilanita, 13-2 Zada, 8-1 Kanawa, 10-1 Sabre Butt, 20-1 Persephone

FORM VERDICT

Philip Mitchell is keen to strike quickly with HALF TIDE, who is due to go up 7lb after his good second here last Saturday and is a lightly-raced 5yo on the weights. The luckless Confronter and top weight Prospector's Cove are the dangers.

Finn fights back to win on black

SNOOKER

THE SCUNTHORPE professional Matthew Couch, a quarter-finalist two months ago at the UK championship in Bournemouth, failed to win his first match of the New Year in the third qualifying round of the Regal Scottish Open in Blackpool yesterday.

The world No 78, who also reached the last 16 of the Irish Open in Dublin a month ago, was beaten 5-4 by Finland's Robin Hull, who potted the pink and black in the deciding frame to go through to the second phase of qualifying which starts on Sunday. Couch, up to 35 in the provisional rankings, led 2-1 and 4-3 hut Hull, the world No 104, snatched a late victory after forcing the decider with a break of 62.

Hull, whose father owns a snooker club in Helsinki, was also responsible for the highest break of the match, an 80, to lead 3-2.

Tony Knowles' hopes of making further progress were dashed when the 43-year-old from Bolton was beaten 5-1 by Alfie Burden, who fired in breaks of 105 and 66.

Another casualty was the Canadian Bob Chaperon. He lost 5-3 to Marcus Campbell, the player who whitewashed Stephen Hendry 9-0 in the first round of the UK Championship in November.

Fellow Canadian Kirk Stevens has now officially withdrawn from the British Open qualifying competition, which starts today. He is still stranded on the snowbound eastern seaboard of Canada.

■ Dennis Taylor, who retires at the end of the season, is hoping to bow out by guiding his northern Ireland side to victory in the inaugural five-team Nations Cup, being staged at the Telewest Arena in Newcastle, from 16 to 24 January.

Football: More substance than style? Certainly the much-travelled manager has an elevated judgement of his self-worth

Atkinson poised for next big offer

BY GUY HODGSON

IF ONE thing struck no one as a surprise in the PR disaster that has been Nottingham Forest this week it was the whereabouts of their proposed new manager. Big Ron? Barbados. Where else would he be?

Ron Atkinson is nothing if not stylish. Flash he might be. A little too quick with the one-liner to be unquestioningly trusted, possibly. But you cannot knock the man's polish. So when Forest came knocking on Tuesday his reaction was that he was on holiday (celebrating his wife's 50th birthday) and that he would talk when he came back. That is a fine judgement of one's self-worth.

It is also a characteristic of Atkinson's 28-year managerial career. He has found just about every reason there is to leave clubs, but even when he has been sacked his confidence appears to have remained intact. It might have been an act, but to the public Champagne Charlie was alive and well, just waiting for the next big offer to come along. And, as this week proves, it surely will.

It is a lifestyle that is a far cry from Atkinson the player, who was about as removed from the shiny Big Ron image as you could get. He was big all right – his nickname was "The Tank" – but to describe him as exotic would be wrong. He was a straight-forward, no nonsense defender and midfielder who would probably collect more yellow than Christmas cards if he played today.

Like Howard Wilkinson and Jim Smith, whose playing careers were similarly eclipsed when they went into management, Atkinson began coaching at non-League clubs and only became noticed on a wider scale when he guided Cambridge United from the Fourth to the Second Division in successive seasons.

West Bromwich Albion employed him next and with limited resources he created the finest Baggies team since the 1950s, finishing third in the First Division in 1979. It was not the results that beguiled, however, but the way the team played. Bryan Robson, Laurie Cunningham, Cyrille Regis – Albion were a blend of graft and flamboyance whose finest moment came in December 1980 when they slaughtered Manchester United 5-3 at Old Trafford, and even the home crowd applauded them off.

That day was remembered, and when United wanted a higher-profile manager than the diligent but undynamic Dave Sexton it was Atkinson they turned to. In many ways it was a happy marriage. Atkinson provided Old Trafford with its quick-quip figurehead and no one could describe his five-year tenure as a failure. The FA Cup was won in 1983 and 1985, and United never finished outside the top four in the First Division. But they were desperate for the championship and when the Holy Grail never came, he was sacked.

Results was the reason given at the time – United were second from bottom when Alex Ferguson came in November 1986 – but Atkinson had compiled a team heavy on experience but with a short shelf-life, and the youth system was neglected to the point of crisis. The facade at Old Trafford was fine, but the substance was suspect, a description that critics might apply to Big Ron himself.

Since United, Atkinson has travelled with varying success. He won the League Cup with Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday, but there is a sense of decline. He was moved upstairs at Coventry City and brought in for a temporary repair job at Hillsborough last season.

Wednesday had nine points from 13 games when Atkinson took over and although he resuscitated them to 16th place his contract was not renewed last May. It is the only occasion that he appeared genuinely shocked by the fickleness of football. "I have been left numb with betrayal," he wrote in *The Sun*. "Let down sadly and savagely by weak men I believe should have been stronger. Rarely have I felt more disappointed – no, worse than that, absolutely disgusted – by the pinstripes in the boardroom."

Atkinson has since concentrated on media work, commentating for ITV on the World Cup and the Champions' League. His bon mots have legendary status, but for all his problems with English only a curmudgeon would deny him his place among the best football experts.

Rich enough not to need to work again, Atkinson, 59, has hankered for management since May. "People might think I'm barmy, " he said recently, "but I miss the life. I love pitting my wits against the best, the Uniteds, Arsenals and Liverpools. I enjoy being involved."

Forest, it seems, will give him the chance and the game will be more interesting for his involvement.

A man who responded to dismissal by Atletico Madrid after 96 days with: "Okay, let's talk about my testimonial," will always be loved more than loathed.

Ron of good luck: Ron Atkinson seems set to accept a lucrative offer from Nottingham Forest after his eight-month managerial lay-off *Empics*

43 YEARS IN FOOTBALL

1939: Born Liverpool, 18 March.

1956-62: Joins Aston Villa as an apprentice. Fails to make a first-team appearance.

1962-68: Moves to Oxford United. Makes 382 appearances, scoring 12 goals. Shares in their promotion to the Third Division and the championship.

1971-74: Player-manager of Kettering. Resigns.

1974-78: Appointed manager of Cambridge United. Gains promotion in successive years from the Fourth to the Second Division. Resigns.

1978-81: Manager of West Bromwich Albion. In 1978 knocked out of FA Cup semi-finals by eventual winners, Ipswich. In 1979 reaches fourth round of Uefa Cup and finishes third in the First Division. Resigns.

1981-86: Appointed manager of Manchester United. FA Cup winners in 1983 and 1985 and never finish below fourth place in the First Division. Is eventually sacked for failing to win the championship.

1987: Returns to manage West Bromwich Albion. Resigns after 11 months.

1988: Manager of Atletico Madrid. Sacked after 96 days and replaced by erstwhile assistant, Colin Addison.

1989-91: Manager of Sheffield Wednesday, but fails to prevent relegation in 1990. Consolation comes in the following season with a 1-0 victory in the Littlewoods Cup against former club Manchester United, and promotion back to the First Division. Resigns in July.

1993-95: Manager of Aston Villa. Manchester United beat Villa into second place in the Premier League in 1993, but are themselves denied the treble by Villa's 3-1 victory in the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup. Uefa Cup triumph over holders Internazionale, but Villa suffer eight defeats in nine League matches. Leaves by mutual consent.

1995-97: Succeeds Phil Neal as manager of Coventry City. Successfully leads annual rescue act. Moves upstairs to allow Gordon Strachan to become manager and then resigns.

1997-98: Manager of Sheffield Wednesday. Avoids relegation for six months. Owls finish 16th in table and contract is not renewed.

1999: Confirms he has been approached by Nottingham Forest to succeed Dave Bassett as manager.

'Women should be in the kitchen, not in football'

Phil Shaw on the wit and wisdom of 'Big Ron', the manager never short of a bottle of bubbly or a pithy comment or six

AS SAID BY RON

I NEVER comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat. **After West Brom's Uefa Cup defeat by Red Star Belgrade, 1979.**

You're welcome to my home phone number, gentlemen. But please remember not to ring me during *The Sweeney*. **On being appointed Manchester United manager, 1981.**

It's bloody tough being a legend. **At United, 1983.**

Q: What's the Gidman situation, Ron? Is he in plaster? A: No, he's in Marbella. **Press conference exchange at Old Trafford, 1985.**

Balloon ball. The percentage game. Route One. It's crept into the top division. We get asked to lend youngsters to these teams but we won't do it. They come back with bad habits, big legs and good eyesight. **At the time of Watford's success with the long-ball game, 1984.**

Half an hour? You could shoot *Ben Hur* in half an hour. You've got 15 seconds. **To a photographer who asked for 30 minutes, 1984.**

I've had to swap my Merc for a BMW. I'm down to my last 37 suits and I'm drinking non-vintage champagne. **On life after the sack by United, 1987.**

I believe there are only a select few managers who can handle the real giants of this world. I happen to be one of them. **At Atletico Madrid, a month before his dismissal, 1988.**

These Iraqis don't take any prisoners. **Summarising for ITV at the World Cup finals, 1986.**

Blimey, you're the first bird I've met with an FA coaching badge. **To a female journalist who asked about Sheffield Wednesday's long-ball game under his predecessor, 1989.**

Women should be in the discotheque, the boutique and the kitchen, but not in football. **As Wednesday manager, 1989.**

I always make sure I write Atkinson, D on the team sheet. Sometimes I wonder if I'm making a mistake. **On his namesake Dalian's enigmatic form at Aston Villa, 1993.**

The criterion I've always used to judge my teams is: do I enjoy watching them? **Enjoying Wednesday's renaissance, 1990.**

I just bumped into Cyrille Regis and I said: "What's all this crap about you finding God? You worked with him at West Brom for four years." **After a match at Coventry, 1990.**

We had a full, serious and constructive discussion at half-time – then decided to give it the full bollocks. **After Villa hit back to win, 1993.**

At least we were consistent – useless in defence, mediocre in midfield and crap up front. **After a Villa defeat at Coventry, 1992.**

The only way I'd be interested in the England job is as player-manager. **The eternal five-a-side player, 1994.**

Just think – Barbra Streisand and Ron Atkinson at Wembley in the same year. Win, lose or draw it's got to be a great season. **Preparing Villa for the Coca-Cola Cup final, 1994.**

There are one or two players about who'd like it renamed the Vodka and Coca-Cola Cup. **Before the final, 1994.**

The highlight of my World Cup was bumping into Frank Sinatra at the Friday night concert in LA. I turned the corner with Gary Newbon and there he was with Bob Hope. **After USA 94.**

My missus reckons that if people don't recognise me in the street, I go back and tell them who I am. **After becoming Coventry manager, 1995.**

Rarely in my life have I felt more disappointed – no, worse than that, absolutely disgusted – by the pin stripes in the boardroom who have sold me out. **"Numb with betrayal" after sacking by Wednesday, 1998.**

ABOUT RON

AS FAR as he's concerned, he's God. There's nobody big enough to tell him what to do. **MARGARET ATKINSON, first wife, after news broke of an extra-marital affair, 1984.**

This person suffers a lot from erotic fantasies. He thinks a lot about sex, though he is devoted to his mother. **GRAPHOLOGIST commissioned by ITV to analyse Atkinson's writing before FA Cup final, 1985.**

I've already paid him £250,000 in compensation. Now he wants £50,000 more. He thinks my name is Onassis. **JESUS GIL, Atletico Madrid president, 1989.**

The only relaxed boss is Big Ron. He had me drinking pink champagne – before a match. **HARRY REDKNAPP, West Ham manager, 1995.**

They call him Big Fat Ron because he's a big spender on transfers. I just call him Fat Ron. **MALCOLM ALLISON, 1993.**

Ron is one of the top three managers in the country. **DOUG ELLIS, Villa chairman, three weeks before sacking him, 1994.**

Ron is the last of the great character managers, who can run a club on their personality and knowledge. I try to tell people here that they have a bonus by playing under him, because his like will not be seen again. **GORDON STRACHAN shortly before succeeding him at Coventry, 1996.**

New colours of Villeneuve put into spotlight

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

EXTRAVAGANT LAUNCHES, lofty ambitions, noise, colour and controversy: It can mean only that Formula One is back on the road.

Two months before the start of another world championship, grand prix racing's newest team set the pace by unveiling their cars yesterday and, true to this sport-come-business, steered straight into a confrontation with the governing body.

British American Racing, the team that has risen from the ashes of Tyrrell, introduced their drivers, the 1997 world champion, Jacques Villeneuve, and the GT champion, Ricardo Zonta, with their machinery at the factory in Brackley, barely the distance of a lap from Silverstone.

Canadian Villeneuve, who left Williams to join the adventure led by his former manager, Craig Pollock, appeared in red and white overalls, matching the livery of his car. Zonta, of Brazil, wore the blue of his car.

Pollock is challenging the rules, which insists a team's cars must be in the same livery, and the case goes to arbitration today. British American Tobacco, which entered into the deal to fund Pollock's mission, want to promote two of their brands and took the opportunity to give visual effect to their campaign yesterday.

Pollock said: "We're going into arbitration. We've done this to protect our commercial rights. I hope we'll get a decision tomorrow although we may have to wait."

The BAT commitment is said to be worth £250m over five years. Pollock has a workforce of more than 200 in what he describes as "the largest and most modern factory in Formula One". His goal, he announced, was to have the most professional team in the pit lanes.

A huge chunk of the funding has been used to lure Villeneuve. Estimates of his salary range from £6.5m to £10m a year, plus a stake in the company.

Successful racing car maker Adrian Reynard is the technical director and Renault Engines complete the package. Reynard has won his debut race in every other category and has gone on record as declaring his intention to maintain the sequence. He and the rest of the camp played down that specific target yesterday, but the mood was still suitably buoyant.

Villeneuve contends he has found a new lease of life at BAR. "I did three years at Williams and I thought now was the right time to move," he said. "It was not a case of getting fed up at Williams or losing respect. In fact, we made a lot of progress last year and it was good. So nobody is shooting bullets.

"But this is like a breath of fresh air, and that's not easy to find in Formula One. Usually it's about evolution, it's difficult to get new ideas. Here it's all new, a new team taking the responsibility to make decisions."

This is not, however, change for the sake of change, he stresses. The racer in Villeneuve demands more than that. "The only reason to go racing is to win, to go better, every time, every lap. The team have the same vision. I didn't come here to pretend. I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe we could be competitive and win. We've got the team, the technology and have set very high goals."

Villeneuve was hugely impressed with his performance in the car's first test, at Barcelona last month. "We only did a few laps but they were good laps," he said. "I could tell straight away the car was fast as soon as I went out onto the circuit."

Pollock admitted he also had his anxieties in Spain. "Jacques got up to 300kph and pieces started coming off the car. I was in a state of panic. I thought he was going to hit me. Instead he just smiled and said she was like a fast lady."

Villeneuve took up the story: "She must have liked me. After 25 laps she gave in and threw everything off."

The testing will become more intense over the coming weeks and all concerned will be content for the fast lady to keep everything on from now on. Even if instant victory is highly improbable, Villeneuve aspires to a piece of the main event when the championship begins in Melbourne on 7 March.

"We're looking to be up there," he said. "McLaren and Ferrari will be competitive again for sure. McLaren had the advantage last year and they should keep it. Ferrari, though, have been working very hard. Williams will probably be better also."

Pollock ought to have no illusions about the scale of the test they are encountering. He has seen other teams come and go in recent years. Jordan, a rare success story, achieved a maiden grand prix win last season, their eighth in Formula One.

Undaunted, Pollock said: "What Jacques says is correct – if you're going out to pretend, you shouldn't go out. If he believes we can aim for a win then so we should. It is our job to keep the car around him."

Jacques Villeneuve (red and white) and Ricardo Zonta (blue) with the British American Racing grand prix cars they will drive, at yesterday's launch *Empics*

Baggio miss proves costly

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

ROBERTO BAGGIO missed a second-half penalty yesterday as his Internazionale side stumbled to a 1-0 defeat at Parma which left them eight points adrift at the top of the Italian League.

Baggio, who scored all 11 penalties he took in the league last season, stepped up for the 72nd-minute spot-kick after Ronaldo had been brought down by Fabio Cannavaro. The former Italian captain, famed for his penalty miss at the end of the 1994 World Cup final against Brazil, hit his shot low and hard but wide of Gianluigi Buffon's right-hand post.

"I did it to please the public," joked Baggio after the match. "Seriously though, I just hit it as I would any other penalty but unfortunately it was too far wide."

Parma had taken the lead through Diego Fuser, who curled a sweetly struck free-kick inside Gianluca Pagliuca's near post after 54 minutes.

Both sides squandered chances in an evenly balanced game, but in the end Buffon's agility and Parma's defensive superiority won out. Alberto Malesani's side have conceded just nine league goals all season, while Inter have now let in 21.

Parma's eighth *Serie A* victory of the season kept them within three points of the leaders, Fiorentina, who beat David Platt's struggling Sampdoria 1-0 thanks to a 27th minute strike by Rui Costa.

Serie A's leading scorer, Gabriel Batistuta, turned provider this week, unleashing Rui Costa down the left wing. The Portuguese midfielder cut inside and slotted a diagonal shot past Fabrizio Ferron.

Sampdoria remain one place above the relegation zone and have the worst defensive record in *Serie A* after conceding 28 goals.

Christian Vieri scored his first goal for Lazio in his first league appearance in four months with a header 11 minutes from time to give Sven Goran Eriksson's side a 1-0 victory at Bologna which rekindles their title challenge.

In Spain, two second-half goals from Davor Suker led Real Madrid to a 3-1 win over visiting Salamanca and moved them up to third place in the Spanish League. Real could go top on Sunday if they can win at the leaders, Mallorca.

Carlos Casartelli put Salamanca ahead in the first half, but Raul equalised before the interval, heading in after a Clarence Seedorf free-kick had been pushed against the bar by the visiting goalkeeper, Bogdan Stelea.

FA rejects Taylor's 'ultimate sanction'

THE FOOTBALL Association has insisted that measures are already in place which allow for points to be docked from clubs with shameful disciplinary records.

The FA was reacting to a call from the Professional Footballers' Association's chief executive, Gordon Taylor, for the "ultimate sanction" to be taken of penalising clubs where it hurts most to clean up the game. But, although Arsenal are on course to set the worst tally of red cards in a season in the history of the Premiership, it seems almost certain that a fine – probably suspended – is the worst punishment they could expect.

Five Gunners players – Emmanuel Petit, Lee Dixon, Martin Keown, Gilles Grimandi and Patrick Vieira – have already been dismissed this season in Premiership games, while Ray Parlour was also sent off in Europe. With only 20 games gone so far, unless the club improve their record in the second half of the 38-match season, they will break the black mark of eight sendings-off held by Manchester City in 1995-96.

In 1990, Arsenal and Manchester United were given two-point and one-point penalties respectively for their part in a one-off 21-man brawl at Old Trafford. However, last season, Everton (75 yellows, five reds) and Leeds (75 yellows, four reds) were both given small suspended fines by the FA for their poor disciplinary records.

In a world where a £50,000 fine means increasingly little, Taylor expressed his frustration in calling for clubs to be punished in the only way that would make chairmen and managers take action against players – deducting points. But an FA spokesman, Adrian Bevington, said: "There are already clear procedures in place in relation to clubs' disciplinary records. At the end of each season, the FA looks at every club's record and there are always wide measures available to us."

The FA seems to believe that the current punishments are enough, given that it is extremely rare for a club to earn a disciplinary bearing for their poor record in two consecutive seasons. Arsenal are by no means an isolated case, though, as Chelsea have 53 yellow cards and three reds so far this season, Blackburn have 45 yellows and four reds, and Everton's 59 yellows and two reds could mean their suspended fine comes into force.

Referees and their assistants are to be fitted with a three-way communications system in Premiership matches next season.

The Premier League's referees' officer, Philip Don, yesterday announced that Fifa, world football's ruling body, had given permission for the three officials to talk via headsets in a scheme which has been inspired by rugby union.

Don said: "It is an idea we have been discussing with the FA since September and we have noted that rugby union has had these communications between the officials for a couple of years. There is no suggestion that the comments between the officials will be transmitted on television like in other sports. Fifa does not allow this, anyway.

"It shows we are not backward when it comes to technology if it can be used to assist the referee and the other officials," Don added. He believes the microphone links will help linesmen warn referees of incidents that may happen behind their backs without having to flag furiously as happens now.

Henman has to struggle for success

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN continued his bright start to the New Year by reaching the third round of the Qatar Open last night.

The World No 7 needed three sets to overcome the Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui in Doha and had to come back from going one set down. Henman lost the opening set 4-6 but bounced back to level by taking the second 6-3 and then coasted home 6-0 in the decider. The Croatian Goran Ivanisevic joined him in the next round when he beat Christophe van Garsse of Belgium 6-3, 6-0.

In Perth, Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden called for the suspension of Petr Korda yesterday and labelled the International Tennis Federation "scared" in the wake of the Australian Open champion's positive drugs test. After leading Sweden to a Hopman Cup victory over the Slovak Republic, Bjorkman said that Korda deserved to be thrown off the ATP Tour because of his positive test for a banned steroid at Wimbledon last year. Results of the test were only made public last month.

"If you cheat you should be suspended for two, three, four or five years," Bjorkman said. "I wouldn't say he took it like a nose spray. You can miss [those ingredients] because it has different names on it. But this is steroids and you take them or not. There is no one that is just going to put them into you. He played his best tennis all the way up to Wimbledon and then he was gone."

The normally subdued Swede, once ranked fourth in the world, is the first high-profile player to have spoken out on the Korda scandal. The ITF was roundly criticised for only fining Korda his tournament earnings at Wimbledon and docking him the ATP Tour computer points won at the event.

Bjorkman said the game's governing body had neglected its responsibilities. "I think it is the worst decision the ITF have made," he said. "It is totally the worst that could happen for tennis. I hope all the players in Australia will get together and really put pressure on the ITF and ATP. We've heard so many things that guys are positive and they just cover it over – they are scared of putting it out."

Korda lost his first match in the Qatar Open in Doha on Tuesday, prompting the veteran left-hander to voice his uncertainty about travelling to Australia to defend his title. Bjorkman was infuriated by Korda's comments.

"He is trying to get people to feel bad for him and I think that is the worst he can do," the Swede said. "It is better to be honest and say 'Yes, I am sorry I did that' and then that is it." Bjorkman said he had been drug tested "something like 15 times in 1998". He asked: "Why be tested 15 times when we are still not going to be really hard on the guys who are cheating?"

Earlier, Bjorkman and Asa Carlsson had all but ended the Slovak Republic's dreams of retaining their Hopman Cup mixed-team title with a 2-1 win. Bjorkman and Carlsson, who beat the fancied United States on Monday, clinched the tie when they overcame Karol Kucera and Karina Habsudova 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the mixed doubles.

Australia, inspired by the teenager Jelena Dokic, swept aside the top seeds, Spain, 3-0 to reach the brink of a finals place. The eventual scoreline for Sweden appeared unlikely when Habsudova beat Carlsson 6-3, 6-3 in the opening singles. But Bjorkman came to the rescue by disposing of Kucera 7-5, 6-1 before showing his world class doubles talent to help seal the result.

Sweden will play in Saturday's final if they can beat Switzerland on Friday, while the Slovak Republic need favourable results to have any chance of repeating last year's success.

Steffi Graf has dismissed reports that she could be ready to retire and has set her sights on adding to the 21 Grand Slam titles amassed during her glittering 17-year career. The 29-year-old German player, in Hong Kong for an exhibition event, rejected talk of retirement and said her lengthy injury lay-offs had rekindled her enthusiasm for the game.

Asked about speculation she may quit, Graf said: "It's not true. It's news to me. I still love tennis very much. It's always a challenge for me to go out there. And if I look back at the last few tournaments I played at the end of last season it was a thrill to be out on the court playing well, playing the top players, to feel the crowd behind me. I still enjoy it so much. That's why I'm still around. After the operation on my knee in 1997 I was out for something like five months. At first I didn't miss playing that much because it was nice to have some time away with friends, but when I started playing again I realised how much it meant to me."

Sweden's Jonas Bjnrkman on his way to victnry over Karol Kucera yesterday *AFP*

Gallardo leads as 'Kini' crashes

RALLYING

HEINZ KINIGARDNER of Austria, one of the favourites in the motorcycle section of the Dakar Rally, crashed out of the race on the sixth stage in the Mauritanian desert yesterday.

The works KTM rider, fourth overall after Tuesday's fifth stage, was not seriously injured but was due to be flown out of Africa for further medical treatment. 'Kini' has yet to reach the Dakar finish of the classic in six attempts.

The Spanish BMW rider, Oscar Gallardo, retained the overall lead after coming in fifth at the end of a tough stage from Atar to Tidjikja. Gallardo increased his lead over the second-placed Frenchman, Richard Sainct, to 1min 33 sec. Jaroslav Katrinak of Slovakia, on a KTM, won the stage. France's Thierry Magnaldi, fourth overall, was second.

In the cars, Spaniard Jose Maria Servia, in a Schlesser Buggy, won the stage and snatched the overall lead from the German, Jutta Kleinschmidt, driving a Mistubishi.

Servia finished 4:43 ahead of his team-mate, Jean-Louis Schlesser, with both climbing one place to first and second respectively.

The Spaniard is six-and-a-half minutes ahead of Schlesser, with Kleinschmidt now more than 14 minutes behind.

Chinese are foiled by Rolph

SWIMMING

CHINA UNDERLINED their supremacy at a World Cup short-course meeting in Beijing yesterday when they powered to 12 gold medals out of a possible 17 on the final day.

The gold rush left China with a total of 23 golds over the two-day event. Germany came in a distant second in the medal count with three golds. China's men claimed four of the last-day golds while the women cleaned up in eight of the nine events.

The only women's gold which eluded China was the 100m individual medley, won by Britain's Sue Rolph in 1:03.45.

The Olympic and world champion Claudia Poll again settled for silver after losing to China's Chen Hus in the women's 400m freestyle, won in four minutes 07.04sec. The Costa Rican, whose priority is the defence of her 200 and 400m freestyle crowns at April's world short-course championships in Hong Kong, took a silver yesterday in the 800m.

China's 16-year-old Ouyang Kunpeng dominated the men's 50m backstroke with a time of 25.11sec, while Deng Qingsong took the men's 200m freestyle in 1:48.88.

The meeting was the fourth leg of the 12-event World Cup series.

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL

The US State Department has granted permission for Major League side Baltimore Orioles to play a two-game series against the Cuban national team in Cuba later this year.

BOWLS

WORLD INDOOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk) First round: W Richards and G Harlow (Eng) bt N Booth (Irl) and N Burkett (SA) 7-4 7-4 2-7 7-5. **Quarter-final:** G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) bt D Gourlay (Sco) and M McMahon (Aus) 7-2 7-2 7-4.

BOXING

The former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title challenger Scott Welch is to fight Michael Murray at York Hall, London, on 30 January as part of the undercard of the British and Commonwealth heavyweight championship bout between Julius Francis and Danny Williams.

CRICKET

The fast bowler Nixon McLean has signed a one-year extension to his contract with Hampshire.

Warwickshire have made a "verbal agreement" with Allan Donald to return to Edgbaston as their overseas player for the coming season.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD (One-day international series v England and Sri Lanka): S R Waugh (capt), *S K Warne, M G Bevan, G S Blewett, A C Dale, D W Fleming, A C Gilchrist, B P Julian, D S Lehmann, G D McGrath, D R Martyn, R T Ponding, M E Waugh, B E Young. †Warne will captain side for first two matches because of injury to S R Waugh).*

NEW ZEALAND SQUAD (One-day series v India): S P Fleming (capt), M J Horne, R G Twose, C D McMillan, C L Cairns, C Z Harris, D J Nash, D L Vettori, G R Larsen, S B Doull, G I Allott, A C Parore.

INDIA SQUAD: M Azharuddin (capt), S R Tendulkar, S C Ganguly, H H Kanitkar, R S Dravid, A D Jadeja, N R Mongia, R Singh, A Kumble, J Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, B'D Mohanty, S B Joshi, N Chopra.

DARTS

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey) Second round: R Barneveld (Neth) bt L Wallace (Sco) 3-2; C Mason (Eng) bt T Hankey (Eng) 3-1; S Duke (Aus) bt M James (Wal) 3-1; M Adams (Eng) bt G Hunt (Aus) 3-1.

FOOTBALL

Bristol City have signed the Barbadian international midfielder Norman Ford, 21, on trial.

Northern Ireland will play Wales in a B international at Wrexham on Tuesday, 9 February.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Re-arranged fixtures: Sun 14 Mar: Middlesbrough v Southampton (from 13 Mar). **Fri 2 Apr:** Aston Villa v West Ham (from 3 April).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE Re-arranged fixtures: Sat 23 Jan: Watford v West Bromwich (from 9 Mar). **Tue 26 Jan:** Rotherham v Cardiff City (from 2 Jan). **Fri 26 Mar:** Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd (from 27 Mar); Tranmere v Crewe (from 27 Mar). **Sun 28 Mar:** Peterborough v Mansfield (from 27 Mar).

FA CUP Re-arranged fixtures: Third-round replay: Wed 13 Jan: Fulham v Southampton (from 12 Jan). **Fourth round: Sun 24 Jan:** Wolves v Arsenal (from 23 Jan). **Mon 25 Jan:** Oxford Utd v Chelsea (from 23 Jan)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD Re-arranged fixture: Tue 12 Jan: Rochdale v Stoke City (from 5 Jan).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Crystal Palace v Swindon (2.0); Norwich v Brighton (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: London Knights v Sheffield Steelers (7.30); Newcastle Riverkings v BT Cardiff Devils (7.15).

OTHER SPORTS

BOWLS: World Indoor Pairs Championships (*Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk*).

DARTS: Embassy World Championship (*Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green*).

SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish Open, British Open and World Championship (*Norbreck Castle, Blackpool*).

HOCKEY

LOS REYES TOURNAMENT (Barcelona, Sp) Third-fourth place play-off: Canterbury 5 San Sebastian 1.

ICE HOCKEY

The Nottingham Panthers defenceman Corey Beaulieu has been handed a three-match ban and fined £250 by a League disciplinary committee for his check on Ayr's Karry Bielle on 27 December.

NHL: New Jersey 3 San Jose 3. Pittsburgh 5 Calgary 1; NY Islanders 1 Chicago 1; Edmonton 3 Los Angeles 4 (ot); Phoenix 2 Florida 2.

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE (Tuesday): *Cardiff Devils 7 Sheffield Steelers 1.*

RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY Sixth stage (492km, including a 456km timed section, Atar to Tidjikja, Mauritania) Cars: 1 J M Servia (Sp) Schlesser 6hr 58min 58sec; 2 J-L Schlesser (Fr) Schlesser +4:43; 3 M Prieto (Spain) Mitsubishi +5:55; 4 J Kleinschmidt (Ger) Mitsubishi +24:32; 5 H Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi +43:29. 6 S Peternansel (Fr) Nissan +1:00:55. 7 K Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi +1:06:32; 8 T De Lavergne (Fr) Nissan +1:07:03. **Overall:** 1 Servia (Sp) Schlesser 21:44:49. 2 Schlesser (Fr) Schlesser +6:29; 3 Kleinschmidt (Ger) Mitsubishi +14:19; 4 Prieto (Sp) Mitsubishi +39:18; 5 Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi +1:06:06; 6 Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi +1:11:07; 7 De Lavergne (Fr) Nissan +1:38:59; 8 Peternansel (Fr) Nissan +2:56:09.

Motorcycles: 1 J Katrinak (Slovak) KTM 6hr 52min 24 sec; 2 T Magnaldi (Fr) KTM +1:33; 3 K Tlainen (Fin) KTM +2:29; 4 A Cox (SA) KTM +2:52; 5 O Gallardo (Sp) BMW +3:54; 6 R Sainct (Fr) BMW +5:05; 7 J Arcarons (Sp) KTM +6:51; 8 C Sotelo (Sp) KTM +26:21; 9 D von Zitzewitz (Ger) KTM +30:35; 10 J Deacon (GB) KTM +31:30. **Overall:** 1 Gallardo (Sp) BMW 21 hr 28min 20sec; 2 Sainct (Fr) BMW +1:33 behind; 3 Cox (SA) KTM +2:34; 4 Magnaldi (Fr) KTM +25:42; 5 Arcarons (Sp) KTM +28:53; 6 Katrinak (Slovak) KTM +29:08. 7 Sotelo (Sp) KTM +41:44; 8 F Meoni (It) KTM +48:26; 9 Deacon (GB) KTM +1:13:21; 10 Von Zitzewitz (Ger) KTM +1:14:17.

RUGBY UNION

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: London Scottish 24 Gloucester 13; Newcastle 34 Bedford 23; Northampton London Irish 32; Sale 30 Bath 32.

SKIING

MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Kranjska Gora, Slovenia) Slalom: 1 J Kosir (Slovenia) 1min 37.22sec (first leg 47.86/ second leg 49.36); 2 T Stangassinger (Aut) 1:37.48 (48.38/49.10); 3 B Raich (Aut) 1:37.79 (50.62/47.17). **Overall standings:** 1 H Maier (Aut) 651 pts; 2 L Kjus (Nor) 592; 3 C Mayer (Aut) 542. **Slalom standings:** 1 Stangassinger 296; 2 F C Jagge (Nor) 231; 3 Kosir 206.

SNOOKER

REGAL SCOTTISH OPEN (Blackpool) Second qualifying round (Eng unless stated): N Terry bt G Cass 5-2, A Gunnell bt P Sweeny 5-4; P McPhillips (Sco) bt A Borg (Malta) 5-3; S Newbury (Wal) bt L Robinson 5-1; M Dunn bt S Murphy (Irl) 5-2; B Mapstone bt J Whitty 5-1; D McLellan (Sco) bt S Chong (Malay) 5-4, C Gilcreest (Irl) bt M Fenton (Wal) 5-3; D Walker bt E Barker 5-1; H Abernethy (Sco) bt P Delsemme (Bel) 5-1; M Husnu (Cyp) bt A Rosa 5-1; A Bolsover bt B Pinches 5-1; N Gilbert bt S Lanigan 5-4, J Grech (Mal) bt M Wehrmann (Neth) 5-2; T Pichit (Thai) bt J Wallace 5-2; S Parker bt P Davison 5-2. **Third qualifying round:** J Weston bt I Brumby 5-4; I Lardner (Sco) bt A Carter 5-4; S Bedford bt T Shaw 5-3; K Burrows bt I Sargent (Wal) 5-4; M Dziewiałtowski (Sco) bt C Shade (Sco) 5-1. J Mehe bt M Holt 5-3; D Finbow bt A Burnett (Sco) 5-0; L Fernandez (Irl) bt S O'Connor (Irl) 5-4; S Bingham bt P McCullagh 5-3; C MacGillivray (Sco) bt W Walker 5-3; J Delaney (Irl) bt M Bennett (Wal) 5-4; S Mazzotti bt C Harrison 5-1; M Wilson bt C Scanlon 5-0, A Burden bt T Knowles 5-1; R Hull (Fin) bt M Couch 5-4; M Campbell (Sco) bt B Chaperon (Can) 5-3.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Adelaide) Singles, second round: T Enqvist (Swe) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-2 6-3; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt G Kuerten (Bra) 6-7 7-6 7-6; D Hrbaty (Slovak) bt O Gross (Ger) w/o; S Draper (Aus) bt M Chang (US) 6-3 7-6.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hope Island) Singles, second round: I Spirlea (Rom) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-4 6-1; P Schnyder (Switz) bt S-T Wang (Taiw) 6-3 6-4; M Pierce (Fr) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-2 6-2; N Dechy (Fr) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-4 3-6 7-5; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-4 7-5. A Huber (Ger) bt A Sidot (Fr) 6-3 4-6 7-5. M Serna (Sp) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3 6-4, B Rippner (US) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-1.

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CLASSIC Singles, second round: M S Lorenzo (Sp) bt T Snyder (US) 6-0 6-4; K Brandi (US) bt M A Vento (Ven) 4-6 6-3 6-4; D Van Roost (Bel) bt L Baker (NZ) 6-2 6-2; S Farina (It) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-4 6-2; C Rubin (US) bt K Boogert (Neth) 6-4 7-5; J Halard- Decugis (Fr) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-0 6-2; B Schett (Aut) bt S Cack (US) 6-4 6-2, L Raymond (US) bt *M Saeki (Japan) 6-4 3-6 6-4.*

HOPMAN CUP MIXED TEAMS TOURNAMENT (Perth, Aus) Australia 3 Spain 0. (Aus names first): J Dokic bt A Sanchez-Vicario 6-3 6-2. M Philippoussis bt C Moya 6-4 7-6; Philippoussis/Dokic bt Moya/Sanchez Vicano w/o **Sweden 2 Slovakia 1.** (Swe names first): A Carlsson lost to K Habsudova 6-3 6-3; J Bjorkman bt K *Kucera 7-5 6-1; Bjorkman and Carlsson bt* Kucera and Habsudova 6-3 3-6 6-1.

GROSBANK TOUR (Telford) Men's first round: N Lester (Herts) bt G Bamford (Herts) 6-4 3-6 6-1. A Wharf (Glos) bt J Smith (Northants) 7-5 6-4; R Hanger (Dorset) bt O Sanger (Dorset) 7-6 7-6. A Graveson (Bucks) bt R Clarke (Leics) 6-3 6-4; A Naumann (Aus) bt R Kirkness (Devon) 6-2 3-6 6-3; O Crawley (Norfolk) bt N Bamford (Herts) 6-1 6-3; P Scullard (Hants) bt S Arney (Derbys) 6-4 7-6; B Haran (Hants) bt B Gudzelak (Yorks) 6-2 6-3. **Women's first round:** C Stringer (Oxon) bt A White (Dorset) 6-0 6-1; A Blow (Leics) bt O Hock (Lancs) 6-1 6-2; S Gregg (Yorks) bt J Keene (Warwicks) 6-0 6-2.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Bari (1) 2 **Perugia (0)** 1
Negrouz 13 — Tedesco 47
Innocenti 67 — 22,000

Bologna (0) 0 **Lazio (0)** 1
31,160 — Vieri 79

Fiorentina (1) 1 **Sampdoria (0)** 0
Rui Costa 27 — 36,223

Parma (0) 1 **Inter (0)** 0
Fuser 51 — 29,964

Roma (1) 2 **Piacenza (1)** 2
Di Francesco 26 — Stroppa 37
Tommasi 49 — Piovani 47
54,670

Salernitana (1) 1 **Cagliari (1)** 3
Belmonte 12 — Macellari 44
31,681 — Muzzi 79, 90

Udinese (1) 2 **Vicenza (1)** 1
Genaux 42 — Ambrosetti 7
Amoroso 76 — 19,000
Vicenza's Lamberto Zauli sent off, 87

Venezia 0 **Empoli** 0
abandoned after 61min, fog

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Fiorentina	15	10	2	3	27	14 32
Parma	15	8	5	2	24	9 29
Lazio	15	7	5	3	28	18 26
Milan	14	7	4	3	21	16 25
Roma	15	6	6	3	30	20 24
Inter	15	7	3	5	26	21 24
Bologna	15	5	6	4	17	12 21
Bari	15	4	9	2	18	16 21
Juventus	14	6	3	5	15	14 21
Perugia	15	5	4	6	21	26 19
Udinese	15	5	4	6	(18	25 19
Cagliari	15	5	2	8	22	21 17
Piacenza	15	4	5	6	20	20 17
Sampdoria	15	3	5	7	14	28 14
Empoli	14	3	5	6	12	20 12
Vicenza	15	2	6	7	9	19 12
Salernitana	15	3	3	9	12	26 12
Venezia	14	2	5	7	5	14 11

■ *Empoli deducted 2pts; Milan v Juventus not included*

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: Port Vale v Middlesbrough. **Second Division: Postponed:** Scarborough v Wrexham; Shrewsbury v Notts County; Stockport v Lincoln. **Third Division: Postponed:** Chester v Hull; Hartlepool v Wigan.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charlton 0 Watford 0; **Postponed:** Gillingham v Millwall; West Ham v Peterborough.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 3 (Raul 35, Suker 54, 70) Salamanca 1 (Casartelli 29).

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Auto Windscreens Shield Northern section second round: Halifax 4 York 2. Hull 1 Wrexham 2; Lincoln City 1 Mansfield 0. **Postponed:** Darlington v Chesterfield; Rochdale v Stoke City; Wigan v Scarborough. **Southern section second round:** Bournemouth 5 Peterborough 1; Brighton 1 Millwall 5; Cambridge Utd 3 Northampton 2; Exeter 3 Southend 1; Luton 0 Walsall 3; Swansea 0 Gillingham 1; Torquay 2 Fulham 1 *(Torquay win by golden goal in extra time)*; Wycombe 1 Brentford 4. **Scottish League First Division:** Morton 0 St Mirren 0 **Representative Match:** FA XI 3 Combined Services 0. **Ryman League Second Division:** Banstead 1 Thame 3. **Isthmian League Cup third round:** Berkhamsted 3 Aldershot *3 (aet)*. **Puma Cup second round:** Carshalton 2 Chertsey D. **Vandanel Trophy third round:** Tooting & Mitcham 3 Metropolitan Police 1. **Unibond League Unifilla First Division Cup second round:** Eastwood Town 0 Bradford PA 1. **Third round:** Alfreton 0 Ashton 3. **Smirnoff Irish League First Division:** Larne 4 Ballyclare 1. **Winstonlead Kent League Premier Division:** Deal 1 Herne Bay 0; Slade Green 1 *Ramsgate* 1. **Ulsisport League Cup second-round replay:** Bourne 2 Boston Town 3. **Unipet Sussex County League First Division:** Broadbridge Heath 0 Redhill 7; Chichester 3 Selsey 1; Langney Sports 2 Hailsham 1; Littlehampton 2 Horsham YMCA 2. **North Western Trains League First Division:** Cheadle 0 Mossley 3; Maine Road 2 Atherton LR 0; *Nantwich 1 Prescot Cables 5.* **Jewson Wessex League:** Bournemouth 0 Brockenhurst 1. **Jewson Eastern League Premier Division:** Warboys 2 Fakenham 4. **Arnott Insurance Northern League First Division:** Marske 2 Bedlington Terriers 3. **Northern Counties League Cup third round:** Arnold 6 Harrogate Railway 2; Thackley 3 Garforth 3. **The Times FA Youth Cup third round:** Barnet 0 Hartlepool 0; Scunthorpe Utd 2 Portsmouth 1. **Pontins League Premier Division:** Liverpool 2 Leicester 1; Preston 0 Everton 2. **First Division:** Oldham 1 Tranmere 0 **Second Division:** Rotherham 1 Blackpool 3; Sheffield Utd 2 Huddersfield 1. **Postponed:** Bradford City v York. **Avon Insurance Combination First Division:** Arsenal 0 Oxford Utd 1.

TODAY'S NUMBER

23

The numbers of years since the West Indies' cricket team lost five Test matches in one series – they lost 5-1 in Australia in 1975-76. They are now 4-0 down in South Africa.

SPORT

CHAMPION'S NEW CHALLENGE P22 ● BIG RON, TROUBLESHOOTER P26

Fowler rejects £35,000 a week

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

ROBBIE FOWLER has turned down Liverpool's offer of a contract worth the equivalent of £35,000 a week. His refusal to agree to the deal will alert Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, who are both keen to sign the England international striker.

The offer to Fowler starts at around £1.8m a year, making him the best-paid player at Liverpool. Fowler, who has 18 months of his present contract left, has so far refused to accept those terms.

Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, wants Fowler to stay at the club despite doubts about whether he is the ideal partner for Michael Owen. However, the Anfield board wants to know whether Fowler is willing to commit himself to Liverpool in the long term, or is planning to let his contract run out and leave for nothing.

If Fowler continues to reject the latest Liverpool offer, which appears to be final, then he could be sold before the transfer deadline in March. Arsenal are watching developments, while the Blackburn manager, Brian Kidd, is a known admirer of Fowler, despite having five top-line strikers already.

The snag for rival bidders is the cost of the deal. Liverpool would want at least £10m, and the buyers would then have to satisfy Fowler's wage demands. Arsenal could meet those wages as they pay large contracts, but the Blackburn owner, Jack Walker, has a £1m-a-year pay ceiling.

Houllier has said that his former co-manager, Roy Evans, would be welcome to return to Anfield if he wants to. The Frenchman, who took sole control in November after Evans' emotional departure from the club, said: "If he wants to return and have some work, be it in the scouting or recruiting of top players, then I would be very happy because I enjoyed working with Roy. A job here does not just involve the first team. There is also the Academy."

Overseeing Liverpool's youth development was one of the posts suggested to Evans before he left, but it was believed he did not want to return to the background at the club. He has not returned to Anfield to watch a game since his departure.

Houllier added: "It would be good if Roy could find another job in management and I think he can. But I mean this, I would like to see him back at this club at some stage."

Liverpool have completed the transfer of the Lillestrom defender, Frode Kippe. The fee for the 19-year-old Norwegian Under-21 international is believed to be around £700,000, which could rise to £2m depending on appearances.

Liverpool have also confirmed their interest in Bayer Leverkusen's Dutch striker, Erik Meijer. He is out of contract with the German side at the end of the season – but Leverkusen could be set to sell now rather than miss out on a fee under the Bosman ruling.

Alex Ferguson has denied using psychological warfare in a quest to knock Arsenal's championship challenge off the rails. The Manchester United manager has revealed he has sent a letter to the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, apologising for private remarks about Arsenal becoming public.

Ferguson said his comments that Arsenal were "scrappers" were made privately – but he stopped short of apologising for the comments themselves.

Ferguson said: "Arsène Wenger has a right to be annoyed over this matter. I have already dropped him a note explaining the situation, and I offered him the apology he deserved.

"It is not my policy to criticise other teams and the way they play. The last thing we want is to have big clubs like ours in this sort of confrontation. People go on about it all being psychological warfare, but that is far from the truth on this occasion."

Coventry City have completed the signing of the Danish goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard – but he will not link up with the Sky Blues until next season. The 6ft 5in Hyldgaard has completed his initial £200,000 transfer, a fee which could eventually double depending on the number of first-team appearances he makes. The 20-year-old will complete the season with his Danish club, Ikast, before reporting to Highfield Road in July.

Leeds United are set to sign the left-sided midfielder Willem Korsten from the Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem until the end of the season.

Ipswich Town have paid £200,000 to another Dutch club, De Graafschap, for the 28-year-old wing back, Fabian Wilnis.

Uefa attacks Blatter's plan

BY NICK HARRIS

A BIENNIAL World Cup would damage football and the public would abandon the game, European football's governing body said yesterday.

"A biennial World Cup, in the current situation, would be disastrous for the basic components of soccer – players, clubs and domestic leagues," Gerhard Aigner, the general secretary of Uefa, said. "The European Championship would risk being devalued and maybe destroyed. That would damage Uefa which, on technical, organisational and financial levels, is the motor of world soccer. I fear that the biggest loser in all of this would be the spectator, our true 'sponsor' who Fifa [world football's governing body] seems to be overlooking. The public could all of a sudden abandon soccer."

Aigner's comments came on the same day that Sepp Blatter, Fifa's president and the man who proposed last weekend that a World Cup should be staged every two years instead of four, emphasised his determination to see his proposal become reality. "This idea's not a toy," said Blatter, after a meeting with the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

"If we go to a [cycle] of two years we will not play the same years as the summer Olympic Games," Blatter added, addressing the issue of the World Cup coming into conflict with the summer Olympics, which are held every four years.

The next Games are in Sydney in 2000, followed by Athens in 2004. The next World Cup will be in 2002 in Japan and South Korea and the bidding process for the 2006 finals is underway. Blatter insisted that, with or without a World Cup every two years, work is needed on a "streamlined" international calendar to avoid "chaos" in sporting fixtures.

"One can start changing the calendar from 2005 on," he said, but did not elaborate further on his plans to stage a scaled down World Cup in 2004 to celebrate Fifa's centenary.

Blatter's plans came in for fresh criticism yesterday. Michel D'Hooghe, president of the Belgian FA, said the plans were "hardly possible to realise" and "unreasonable" because of the physical demands they would make on players. He added: "As a doctor, I can only strongly reject these plans."

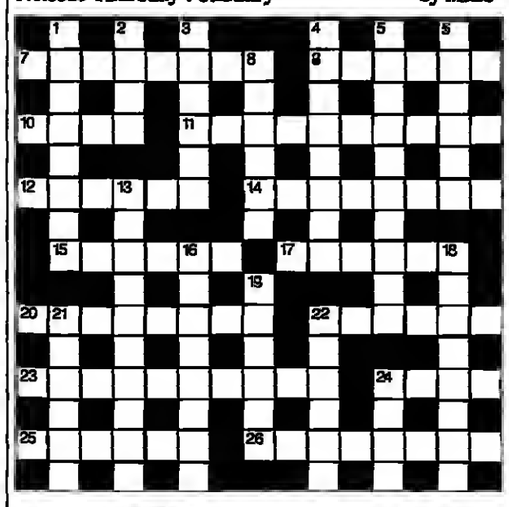
Germany's national team doctor, Professor Wilfried Kindermann, said: "It is almost impossible to play a full season year after year and play in a World Cup or European Championship afterwards."

Blatter will meet with Uefa representatives, including Aigner, and the secretary generals of the other five football confederations to discuss the project on 15 January.

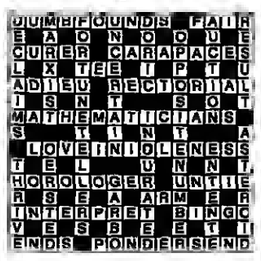
Manuela Riegler, of Austria, leans into a curve on her way to winning the snowboard World Cup giant slalom event in Morzine, France, yesterday. Riegler dominated the race to finish well clear of second-placed Carmen Ranigler of Italy *Reuters*

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3813 Thursday 7 January by Mass



Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

7 Grouse from a male during ineptly played bridge (4,4)
9 Primates embracing Eastern cross with pointed ends (6)
10 Old part of Carthage, destroyed (4)
11 Bird's loud measure, like a gull at first (10)
12 Arched surface caught driving light (6)
14 Gravelly walk, new frontage for terrace (8)
15 Sleepy, Toledo, with turing year (6)
17 Grains, harvest's penultimate measures (6)
20 A very quiet set of canons (but audibly) praise (8)
22 Fat lot in drag (6)
23 Yank turning greener, quaffing British drink (6,4)
24 Star on English broadcast (4)
25 Stir small cinders (6)
26 Pamphlet, one showing drawing (8)

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2 Rally pieces on edge of board (4)
3 Dancer showing dash? (6)
4 Very minor waterfall? (8)
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6 Leading light in vegetable business? (6)
8 Fashionable boring character's interrupted (6)
13 Runner - belter - go-go and lithe (10)
16 Landowner's stashed away right liberal hoard (8)
18 Sign of rising pro in younger member (8)
19 Rerun of broadcast about fuel (6)
21 Tool left among buttresses (6)
22 Deposit formed by salts (6)
24 Source of mineral, hard substance (4)

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NBA lockout breakthrough

BASKETBALL

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

WITH JUST hours to spare, negotiators brought the National Basketball Association back from the brink of disaster yesterday, reaching a preliminary agreement that could save what is left of the season. But the deal still had to be agreed by players and owners, and the long, drawn out and bitter dispute will leave both sides feeling raw.

Players have lost an estimated half a billion dollars (£820m) in salaries, and owners have had no income. But the fans are likely to feel even worse about a dispute that essentially revolved around how to split $2bn between some very rich individuals.

On Monday, it looked as if the game was up, in every sense. The NBA and the players' union had failed to break the deadlock, and it seemed only a procedural vote by the Board of Governors was needed to deliver the *coup de grâce*. But NBA commissioner David Stern and union head Billy Hunter continued talking, with the impending deadline helping to focus minds, and at 6am yesterday the deal was there.

If it receives the seal of approval of owners and players, a truncated season could start in about three to four weeks' time, allowing time for between 45 to 50 games.

Approval is still needed from the owners and the players, and the process of selling the deal is under way. Then deals need to be done with the free agents for the season.

NBA players have arrived in New York for a scheduled vote on whether to support the position of their negotiating committee, which had recommended that the owners' final offer be rejected. At least 200 players had been expected to show up for the vote.

The NBA has $2bn to share out because of increased revenues from television, and the argument was over how to divide the pie.

Players wanted a larger slice for salaries, saying some players were underpaid; owners said some teams were going under, and they couldn't afford it. The reality is that both are partly right. The owners wanted to tighten salary caps, removing the exemptions that allow players to earn such vast sums, while the union was resisting. The players also wanted higher rates for players in the middle and at the bottom end of the salary scale.

The fight was egged on by the super-agents who dominate professional sports, and made even more bitter by the fact that 80 per cent of players are black, and all the owners are white. The average salary is about $2.5m though fewer than half make more than that, reflecting the fact that there are some very big pay packets out there which help to distort the figures.

Pre-eminent amongst them, of course, is the Michael Jordan economy; the Chicago Bulls star earns $33.14m (£54m) a season, and the Bulls' payroll tops $60m. Jordan has not said whether or not he will return to the Bulls this season, though he had promised not to play if coach Phil Jackson left – and Jackson has gone.

One side-effect of the end of the lockout will be to clarify what happens to Jordan and the Bulls, perhaps the greatest basketball team ever.

The lockout, in effect since 1 July, has caused the NBA to miss games because of a labour dispute for the first time in its history. Under American labour law, without a contract – or in this case a collective bargaining agreement CBA – owners can lock out players from working until a deal is reached.

"I wouldn't blame the fans if they didn't come back," said Jeff Hornacek of the Utah Jazz. "Neither side is coming out of this thing looking good."

SA boss denies racial quotas claim

RUGBY UNION

THE HEAD of the South African Rugby Football Union has denied a newspaper report that racial quotas would be used for players in the nation's premier domestic tournament.

The Star, a Johannesburg newspaper, reported on its front page yesterday that the Sarfu president, Silas Nkanunu, said a racial quota system would be extended to the Currie Cup. The system is currently used in youth and provincial rugby leagues.

However, Nkanunu said he was incorrectly quoted. "Such a decision would have to be discussed at length by the Sarfu executive committee and with the provinces before it could take effect," he added.

The African National Congress has said that cricket and rugby teams, which often field all-white sides against international opponents, are not trying hard enough to promote players of other races. On Sunday, the United Cricket Board of South Africa's president, Ray White, reaffirmed the UCB's commitment to the development of non-white players.

Last year, the UCB promised to develop a pool of non-white players as a source for players on provincial squads.

On the domestic rugby stage, the stand-off David Humphreys has won his fitness battle and will captain Ulster in their European Cup semi-final against Stade Français at Ravenhill on Saturday. The Irish international suffered a shoulder injury in the quarter-final victory over 1996 European champions Toulouse on 11 December.

"Initially I was a bit worried about being fit, but I am fine now and have taken increased contact during the week," said Humphreys. "One of the key factors in our cup run this season has been our team spirit and that will be crucial against Stade Français."

But while Humphreys is confirmed as a starter, Ulster coach Harry Williams will delay announcing the team until the 11th hour as he awaits fitness reports on a number of players, including centre Mark McCall, who has been out for 18 weeks with a neck problem.

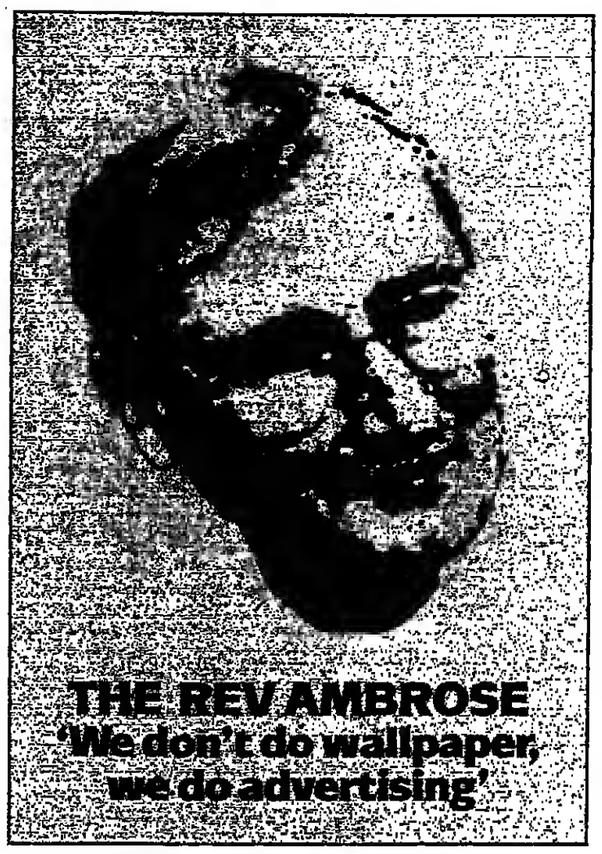
"For technical reasons we are only naming a squad of 22 at this stage but Humphreys will be captain," said Williams. "Stade Français don't have a weakness and are very strong up front. This is a notch up in competition for us and an even bigger challenge than the Toulouse quarter-final."

The promising London Scottish stand-off Barry Irving has been drafted back into the Scotland Under-21 squad for an extra match in the colts' build-up to their Five Nations' campaign.

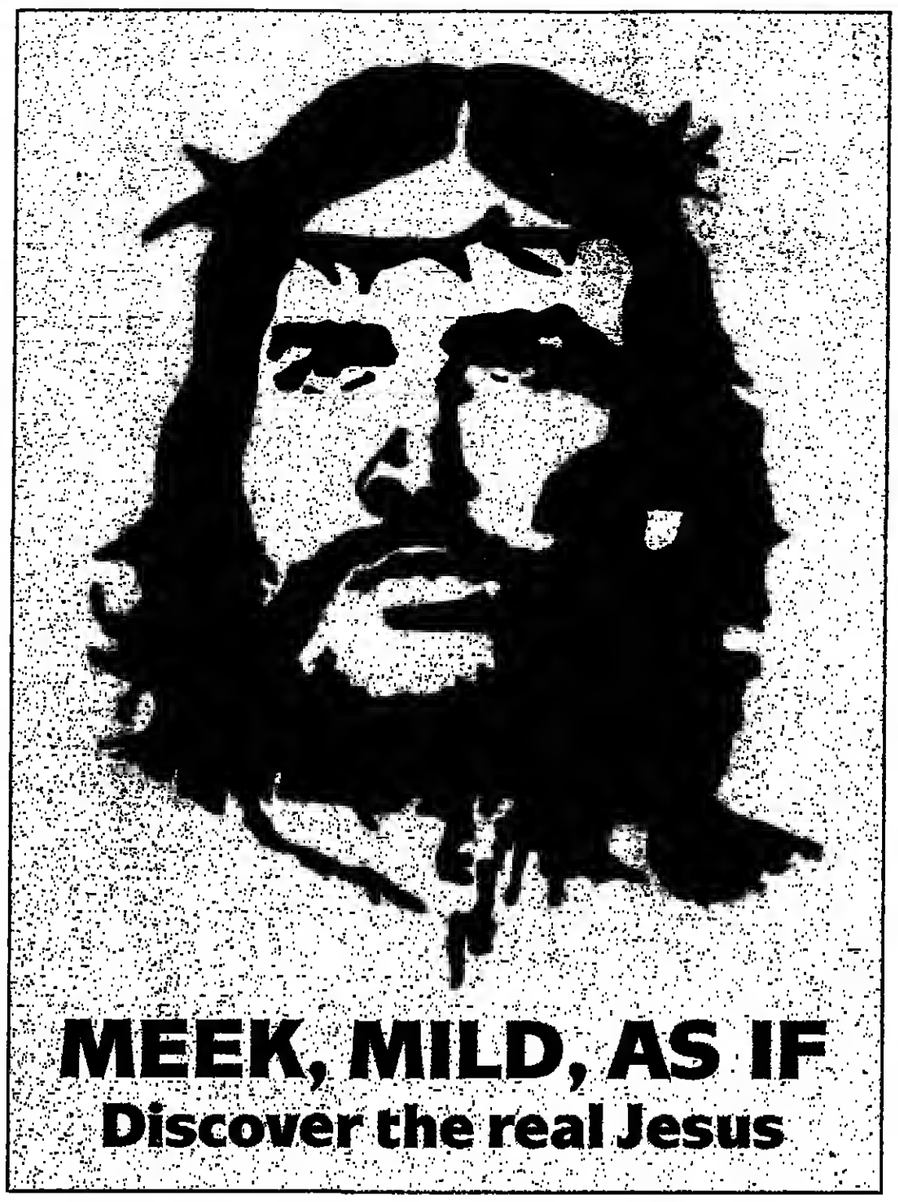
The 19-year-old has been added to the squad along with Watsonians centre Marcus Di Rollo and the Northampton hooker Will Jones for an additional fixture against Newcastle Under-21s at Prestonians on 11 January.

THE INDEPENDENT 7 January 1999

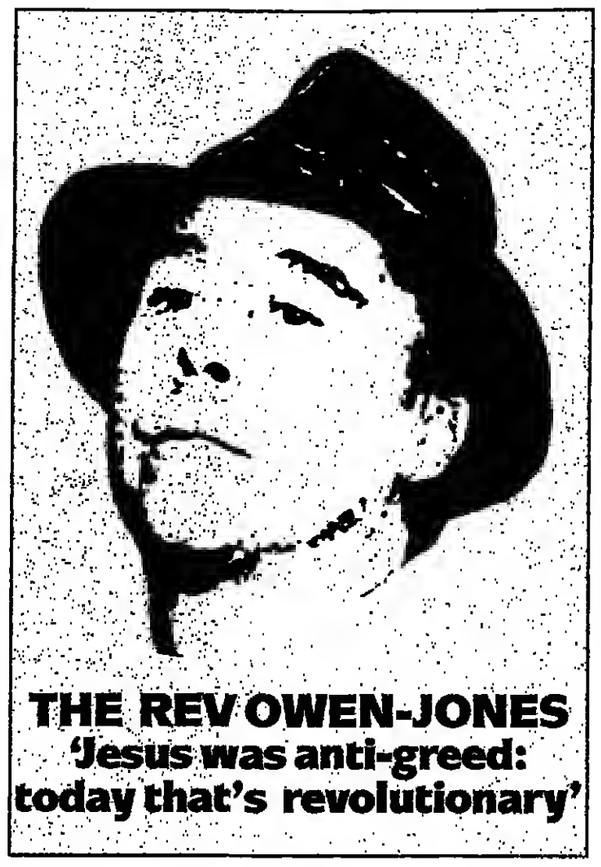
THURSDAY REVIEW



THE REV AMBROSE
'We don't do wallpaper, we do advertising'



MEEK, MILD, AS IF
Discover the real Jesus



THE REV OWEN-JONES
'Jesus was anti-greed: today that's revolutionary'

The reverend revolutionaries

They believe in the power of the word. And the word is advertising. Meet the men of cloth who want to convince you that the Son of Man is no 'wimp'

BY ANN TRENEMAN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. So said John. You know, the apostle who could really write. All of that was a few years ago, and these days he might need to update that sentence. In the beginning was the Brief and the Brief was with God and the Brief was God. It's the kind of thing that might resonate with the Churches Advertising Network, that band of misunderstood Christians who decided a few months ago that the brief for this spring's advertising campaign should be The Real Jesus. You know, the revolutionary who died on the cross. No, not the guy wearing a discreet jewel for a dress, who is always surrounded by lambs and children. The guy with the crown of thorns. The guy who, in fact, looks remarkably like Che Guevara. You know, the Argentinian atheist and T-shirt icon.

The advertising campaign showing Jesus looking awfully like Che was launched this week. The red-and-black poster pictures the Son of God looking off into the distance, as revolutionaries in berets often do, with a slogan underneath that says "Meek. Mild. As If. Discover the real Jesus." The traditionalists are appalled. It is blasphemy. Che and Jesus! Really. The Bishop of Wakefield feared the adverts would "trivialise the mystery of the godhead". He added: "I am not sure it is the proper way of presenting the message of love and peace." The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev Christopher Herbert, said that young people might think that "As If" was a pop group. "The image is very Sixties," he said. "I cannot see how it will appeal to younger generations."

I ask a member of the Churches Advertising Network, the Rev Peter Owen-Jones, whether he thinks that young people might think that As If is a pop group, and it is his turn for a little outrage. "That demonstrates the problem rather than solves it. And you can quote me on that." Before he became a vicar in Haslingfeld, Cambridge, three years ago, Rev Owen-Jones was an advertising copywriter, but he didn't anticipate that this campaign would be called blasphemous. He thinks the reality of church life does have a hard edge. It is not all white lambs and blue-eyed children. He says that the problem is that although the churches are part of the Establishment now, their founder simply was not. So there is bound to be tension between the two, even now. "It is uncomfortable for them," he says.

He blames the Victorians. They are the ones who created the sepia portrait we all have of Jesus, happy and smiling in dress and halo. This is Christ, our Saviour of the Comfy Slippers mentality. It is an extremely nice image but also, perhaps, rather ineffectual. And not that far from the way many people perceive the Church itself these days. The reality is far different. "As a vicar you deal with tragedy and the apparent senselessness of it all," says Rev Owen-Jones. "You deal with drug addiction and alcoholism and self-interest in the extreme. You deal with selfishness and greed. These are all things that every vicar would have to comfort and deal with in other people, as well as look at our own personal failings."

Meek and mild. As if. Rev Owen-Jones thinks that hard-edged and gritty is more like it. And revolutionary. "This campaign really is an honest attempt to try to deal with a part of the story which will not be unfamiliar to people who actually read the Bible. Jesus was anti-materialism and anti-greed. This is a revolutionary line, especially in our society today."

Tom Ambrose is a vicar and the director of communications in the Church of England diocese of Ely. He is also a member of the Network. "It's terrible that Christians want the picture of Jesus to be a sort of a wimp!" he says. "Jesus created an absolute revolution in the lives of the people who wrote the Gospels. That's why they wrote about it. You can read the story of feeding the 5,000 and it is about baskets and bread – or you can read it again and it's 5,000 men hiding away in companies of 50 and 100, drawn up like an army." In the end Jesus fled. He didn't want to be that kind of revolutionary. But that's what the people – those men and Herod et al – thought he was. "That's why he was crucified!"

The members of Churches Advertising Network are bound together by two things: they are Christians (though they belong to different denominations) and they believe in the power of advertising. They are controlled by no one. Every Christmas and Easter they work, with the creative team drawn from Christians in the media, to make a campaign. The members of the Network reject labels such as "modernist" and "radical", but that is what they are. Not particularly because they believe that the real Jesus was a revolutionary, but because they believe in advertising and its power to make people think. "We don't do wallpaper. We do advertising," says Rev Tom Ambrose. "Unless it makes you stop and think twice, then what's it for? Our adverts will be up in the High Street against everyone else's. We want ours to be stronger than that. Maybe we have succeeded."

Robert Ellis, communications director for the Church of England in Lichfield, helped found the network in 1991. I ask whom the Network serves. "There is a huge debate on that one. We exist to serve the Church, which to a large extent has not got a clue about advertising and marketing and public relations. The gap between the Church and the public is getting larger by the day. This is about closing that gap. It's an uphill struggle." He says that many in the Church do not even know what the scenery is. I don't either, so I ask. He means the scenery of advertising. "For them advertising is a puke-green or fluorescent orange piece of paper written on in felt tip behind a piece of cling film, flapping dejected in the wind." He says that the early Church did have a clue. They had mystery plays and John Wesley and his horse and "dear old St Paul in his boat".

All of this seems very far away from Che in his beret, however. But everyone – the vicars and the creatives – insist that this should not be taken that way. They have used Che as an icon, an image, an idea. Chas Bayfield is a member of Christians in Media and he is one of the "creatives" behind the campaign. He says that the revolutionary idea came quickly and he, for one, thinks it is perfect. He says that there is an image now of Jesus as "a hit of a poof". This is simply not appropriate. "We felt very strongly that Christ is misrepresented terribly. It's almost insulting. I want to be known as a follower of this amazing revolutionary man, not some effeminate fairy in a white dress. I'm a grown man. I can't believe in fairies!"

Nor does he particularly believe in Che Guevara. "I didn't really know much about him. In fact, I didn't even know he was a Communist. But he really is the Trivial Pursuit revolutionary, isn't he? He's the one everyone recognises. I mean, most people couldn't even name too many revolutionaries. If I were to say 'Carlos the Jackal' to you, would you know what he looks like?" I say that, yes, I would. Square face and Michael Caine glasses. I'm not sure about the revolutionary bit, though. Mr Bayfield sighs. "Well, most wouldn't. My old granny wouldn't. Che really is *the* token revolutionary."

Somehow I don't think Che would agree. Judy Beishon, of the executive committee of the Socialist Party, says that she thinks the campaign is a bit strange. "If anything, it is probably a hit unfair to Che Guevara." But say we agree, just for the moment, that Che is just an icon and that Jesus is the real revolutionary. Does it mean anything deeper, really? The Churches Advertising Network would say yes. Rev Peter Owen-Jones believes there is a quiet revolution going on. The Church is changing. It has to change. "It is absolutely right that it is uncomfortable. It provokes change – and that is what Jesus did. Change is never easy. The Church is not comfortable with this image. It is more comfortable to have this meek, mild person humbling around taking care of lost cats. But that's not the reality of it at all."

INSIDE

EDUCATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Londoo E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone oumber, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Down on the farm

Sir: Sean Rickard's article "Why should taxpeyers prop up our inefficient farmers?" (5 January) is based on a terrifying misconceptiim.

Farming is not an industry. It is a trust. A farmer's duties go heyond simply providing food; he must also ensure that be leaves the land in good heart for future generations, that his livestock is suitable for further breeding and that the environment is respected so that it will sustain our descendants.

The reclassification of farming as an industry has meant the replacement of these obligations with the simple yardstick of greed. The result has been chicken stocks rife with salmonella, beef herds with BSE and our cereals polluted with chemicals.

No wonder Mr Rickard has defected from the National Farmers' Union to a school of management.
TERRY JONES
London SE5

Sir: Sean Rickard usefully focuses the arguments on reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on to harsh realities of global pressures and technological change. Many in East Anglia, for example, believe those changes will reshape landscapes as significantly as the shift from wool to grain in previous centuries.

UK producers and consumers should view these processes as opportunities rather than threats, but only if greater competitiveness is matched by bolder thinking about its benefits to the whole community rather than the profitability of the few. Rural workers and small businesses are also customers in local economies; the social and environmental consequences of change cannot be divorced from industrial considerations. That is why a genuinely integrated rural development approach is needed both in the Brussels negotiations and the UK government's rural White Paper this year, with a key component being diversion of "bad" wasteful subsidies into "good" eovironmental, healthy and nutritional encouragement.

UK producers are keen for that, understandably as long as sustainable incomes are likely. They now need arguments to be won abroad and at home in favour of quality rather than quantity of produce.
CLIVE NEEDLE MEP
(Norfolk, Lab)
Brussels

Sir: Sean Rickard assumes that all society requires from farming is cheap food. He fails to mention that millions of people are deeply concerned about the less tangible products of farming – the quality, diversity and beauty of the countryside. Much of the criticism of the CAP for many years has been the damage it has caused to wildlife and landscape. In a survey conducted in 1996 hy the Countryside Commission, 91 per cent thought society had a "moral duty" to protect the countryside.

CPRE is in no way an apologist for the CAP and we believe radical reform is long overdue. The objectives of reform, however, should not be focused on a very narrow definition of competitiveness. A new rural policy for Europe should give greater encouragement to farmers to add value to the farmed environment and help them to market the quality of that local environment in the products they produce. This approach applies as much to small farmers as to larger ones.

The countryside remains a local product that can only be produced by our own farmers. CPRE wants to see those who produce the beauty and diversity of our countryside rewarded hy using far more of the current CAP budget to support more sustainable farming. In the long term the quality of the environment will be one of farming's most enduring assets.
ALASTAIR RUTHERFORD
Head of Rural Policy
Council for the Protection of Rural England
London SW1

Welsh Portraits No 4: Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire, west Wales, is a family seaside resort of the traditional kind *Geraint Lewis*

Insane ban on guns

Sir: The Institute of Pyschiatry is to be commended for publicising the fact that, contrary to tabloid "boil-in-the-bag" opinion, the mentally ill are most unlikely to commit murder (report, 6 January). Being cited in just 60 homicides a year out of an annual average of 600 to 700, the mentally ill do not deserve to be the subject of a witch-hunt.

What a pity similar standards of objectivity were not applied to an examination of some other Home Office statistics – those relating to gun ownership. While the number of legally owned guns continues its long-term downward trend, the proportion of British homicides committed with guns has remained at about 9 or 10 per cent – the same as the much-vaunted figure for the mentally ill. Furthermore, virtually all the guns used in homicides are not only held illegally, but have never been registered.

If the chances of being murdered hy a mentally ill person are very small, then the chance of being killed by the lawful owner of a gun is many, many times smaller still. If the Institute of Psychiatry's findings make the Government pause before instituting new "care in the community" legislation, then how can our law-makers justify their draconian banning of the ownership of handguns by responsible people?
ALASDAIR MITCHELL
Stocksfield, Northumberland

Backyard ballast

Sir: For the last few months south Oxford has been living through a nightmare. It could happeo elsewhere.

A private company has established an industrial work-site adjacent to our local park and only 200 yards upwind of an open-air swimming pool, houses, a nursery school and a day centre. It is within the City of Oxford and in the Green Belt and does not have planning permission. Across all parties, both city and county councils and Oxford's two MPs have opposed the development, but to no avail. For this is one company that does not need planning permission.

Where we used to sit by our peaceful lake looking across to the countryside, we now have an excavator towering over a ballast heap, 1,000 feet loog by 50 feet wide and rapidly growing towards its target height of 15 feet. A throughput of 200,000 tonnes of granite per year will be unloaded from trucks on to the stockpile and then back from pile to trucks.

The drone of the excavator, the crashings of the grab and the scrape of metal on metal cannot be shut out of houses. But this private company is immune from prosecution for noise nuisance.

The company is Railtrack, which has "permitted development rights" of breathtaking scope.

At present the matter rests with the Secretary of State. He can support the community and its elected representatives and require such a development in a sensitive site to be properly assessed. Or he can suppress the democratic voice.

This is one of 13 "virtual quarries" across the UK and no doubt part of a logistically sound ballast supply scheme. But it should be in an industrial area and not in anyone's back yard.
P JENKYNS
Oxford

IN BRIEF

Sir: I would have thonght that as little or no teaching or learning takes place during the time of national curriculum tests (a whole week in primary schools), it would be the ideal time for parents to take their children on holiday during term time.

Or does David Hart ("Heads seek term-time holiday ban", 30 December) know of children whose education has suffered from their failure to take these tests, which the Chief Inspector of Schools found vague and of dubious merit?
D G THOMAS
Bude,
Cornwall

Sir: I must respood to a comment made by Michael McCarthy in his article on the Greenwich meridian ("Time line is put on the English map", 31 December), where he states that the meridian "just" misses Louth. For many years there has been within the town of Lonth a brass strip inlaid in the pavemeot marking the meridian's passage through tbe town, together with a commemorative plaque.

Have we beeo mistakeo all these years?
RICHARD GARBUTT
Louth, Lincolnshire

Sir: My sons all use computers extensively at work. They assure me that many companies have storerooms full of serviceable but slightly outdated computers which are no longer in use. My daughters-in-law are all connected with teaching. They assure me that many schools are desperate for serviceable computers, which need not be of the very latest model but which the school budgets cannot be stretched to purchase.

Would it not be possible to put supply and demand together to the great benefit of everybody?
A J WILLIAMS
Tonbridge, Kent

Revolution betrayed

Sir: Contrary to Peter Cadogan's letter (1 January), there is no reason to celebrate the anniversary of the replacement of one dictatorship by another one three and a half centuries ago.

The changes from the Stuart monarchy to the Presbyterian parliament, to the puritan Rump and the republican Commonwealth, and then to the Cromwellian Protectorate, however exciting for the media of the time, did almost nothing for political democracy, as was pointed out by the Levellers, or for economic democracy, as was pointed out by the Diggers – both of whom are far better candidates for commemoration – and nothing at all for the mass of the people. No wonder most of them welcomed the Restoration of the Stuarts a few years later.

Unfortunately the pattern of revolution against an aristocratic hunch of armed gangsters being betrayed by another religious or bureaucratic, militaristic or racist bunch of armed gangsters was followed in America and France, and later in Mexico and Russia, Spain and Argentina, China and Cuba. What price revolution now? Instead of wasting time on a meaningless anniversary of the first modern revolution, we should try to learn from these examples how it was betrayed and why it became a dirty word.
MARY LEWIS
Freedom Press, London E1

Useless euro

Sir: Price transparency is widely touted as a principal benefit of the euro to consumers. But are consumers so sensitive to price differentials that they will travel or purchase across borders within Euroland to take advantage of newly revealed lower prices? Hamish McRae thinks so ("The slow burn of the euro", 5 January), and also predicts the same kind of homogeneity in retailing there that we already have "from Inverness to Plymouth".

But in this part of Sterlingland, a supermarket chain consistently maintains a 5-per-cent differential in its filling station prices between branches only 12 miles apart. A single currency does not automatically dispose of oligopolistic price-fixing if producers combine to "regionalise" the single market.
HENRY FINCH
Braintree, Essex

Sir: One of the silliest arguments put forward in favour of the UK adopting the euro is that it will lead to lower interest rates for mortgages and for industry.

The Government has made it clear that there is no prospect of the UK joining the euro until our economy converges with that of continental Europe. Therefore, by the time it is "economically right" for us to join the euro we will have low sterling interest rates anyway.

Clearly, then, there will be no point in adopting the euro to get low interest rates.
JAMES G FLUSS
London NW4

Religion of work

Sir: Cardinal Hume and the Bishop of Liverpool may well be right about overworking at Christmas ("Churchmen attack work on holidays", 2 January). If they are, it is not just Christmas that is the problem; it is a society where work is the new religion. Work has become too dominating in our lives both because of what it means to us and because of what it demands of us.

The irony, from my point of view, is that the church requires its employees to work unsociable hours which the clergy accept as part of our vocation. However, many of the clergy I know overwork, and not just at Christmas, to the detriment of themselves, their family life and their ministry. If we in the church really believe working patterns can be destructive, there is no place like home to begin the now needed revolution in our society to put and enjoy work in its place.

It is well enough for senior clergy to stand up and seek to steer society in the right direction but perhaps their words would be more telling, to the clergy at least, if the same message were being addressed to the church as employer as well.
The Rev DAVID EATON
Leatherhead, Surrey

Ash, Birch, Cedar

Sir: J Michael Sharman (letter, 5 January) asks about the origin of alphabetical order. In his book *The White Goddess*, Robert Graves explains that alphabetical order derives from the ancient Celtic alphabet, where letters were named after trees and put into the order in which the trees flowered throughout the year.

Tree names were also used to represent numbers, days of the week, and concepts such as life and death. The yew tree represented death and is still grown in cemeteries.
Mrs CHARMIAN HAYES
Feltham,
Middlesex

Sir: J Michael Sharman's letter reminded me of a friend of mine who, when at primary school, used to drive his teachers mad by asking, "As long as you know what all the letters of the alphabet are, why does it matter what order they are in?"
PAUL LOCKWOOD
Cambridge

Fools and their alphabets are copiously parted

MILES KINGTON

R for mo, R for Askey, R for English, R for bitter. That was it. No upmarket ones at all

YESTERDAY I leant on the kindness of the hundred or more readers who wrote in with memories of the comic alphabet which flourished in the Thirties. (Floods more this morning, so I hope you understand if I don't have the time to answer you all individually.)

I should have known, but didn't, that this alphabet is the basis of a Sebastian Faulks novel called *A Fool's Alphabet* and is in fact given in full (I am told by several readers) on page 42. But many of you reported variations. When we stopped yesterday we had got to H, and now we come to the letter I which my father said was for Ivor Novello, as indeed Faulks does. But other people think differently.

I. Ivor Emmanuel. Ivor Cutler. I for looting (high-falutin). I for an eye. I for a pretty girl.

J. J is just about the only letter on which everyone agrees, apart from X: Jaffa oranges.

K. From the days when "kaffir" was a common word, plenty of people remember being told that it was K for kraal. K for farmer, and so on. There was also the oddly English pronunciation of "café" as "kafe", hence K for restaurant. The most popular by far was K for answers (Kay Francis, a once famous film actress of whom I had never heard).

L. Most of ua prefer L for Leather but there is also L for goblin (elf or goblin). L for Romeo and L for happiness. (How about L for Beta Gamma Delta?)

M. Emphasis or Emphasise is the clear favourite. I was also offered M forever blowing bubbles, which is novel: Emphysema, which is clever; and M for cream sherry, which is puzzling till you remember Emva was a make of sherry. Or was it Enva? In which case it should be in...

N. Lots here. Information. Envelope. N for eggs. N for cement (enforcement). Enfilading. N for a penny. N for no (inferno). I think the leader was the old N for a dig (*infra dig*). I did manage to think of a new one myself here, which was Enver Hoxha, but somebody else thought of that as well. And in his *Comic Alphabets* book, Eric Partridge reveals that the idea was thought of long ago, in Enver Pasha or Enver Bey, the once-famous leader of the Young Turks.

O. O for the wings of a dove. O for a muse of fire. O for a pint. O for a pee. O for the rainbow. O for the garden wall. O for my shoulder. O for seas. O for board. O for my dead body. O for the sea to Skye. O for coat.

P. P for relief was the clear winner, ahead of P for the doctor, P for comfort, P for whistle, P for Daddy and P for a penny. The cleverest came from Rosemary Thornton who said that her father taught her P for church because Peover Church near Knutsford in Cheshire is actually pronounced that way.

Q. Amazing what people have queued for in the past. I was given Q for rations, Q for fish and chips, Q for tickets, Q for the 1/9s, Q for bananas, Q for a bus, and – more modern – Q for clubbing. But the commonest was Q for everything. Those who heard it as "cue" gave me Q for tilliards and Q for a song.

R. R for mo, R for Askey, R for English, R for bitter. That was it. No upmarket ones at all. No R for Miller, R for Bryant, R for Quiller Couch or even R for sea clerk.

S. S for you, S for example were the most common, but people remembered all the ones commemorating Esthers: S for Williams, S for Ralston, S for Rantzen, S for McCracken (who she?), S for Waters (who she too?) and S for Ofarim.

T. Everyooe said T for two, except the few who said T for mouf and T for dentures.

U. U for me, U for nerve, U for got, U for mism, U for Pendragon. I liked Richard Stamp's U for today (youth of today!) and I was glad to learn that U for films refers to a defunct German film company called UFA Films.

V. V for *la France, l'amour*, Zapata, España and *la difference*.

W. Nobody was very happy with W, but most settled for Double Ybu for a Shilling, or W for a Quid.

X. X for breakfast was universally liked.

Y. Y for goodness sake was popular. Less so was Y for runts (Y-fronts). But most people went for the "Wife or..." pattern. Y for husband, Y for mistress, and even Y for secretary and Y for partner. A couple of lone cockney voices suggested Y for thin and Y for communion biscuits.

Z. A difficult letter to end on. Z for breeze (zephyr breeze) was the commonest, even if we all felt it was feeble. Occasional references to old Zephyr cars, such as Z for Six, and Z for Zodiac, and two brave suggestions of Zeffirelli. Z for effect, Z someone. Two people said they had been told Z the raven and didn't know why. Sounds like the old Edgar Allan Poe line "Quoth the raven" to me...

Thanks to all, and tomorrow back to sanity.

THE INDEPENDENT

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The euro is here, so let's start adjusting our economy to it

THE BANK of England's Monetary Committee is meeting today for the first time since the launch of the euro. This shouldn't necessarily influence the immediate decision to lower interest rates again. The committee may well decide to leave them where they are, at 6.25 per cent. But the coming of the euro is of immense importance to the Bank's deliberations for the future. In business, as in politics, complacency would be the very worst stance to adopt over a development that will have a profound influence on our currency, and interests rates, whether or not we join.

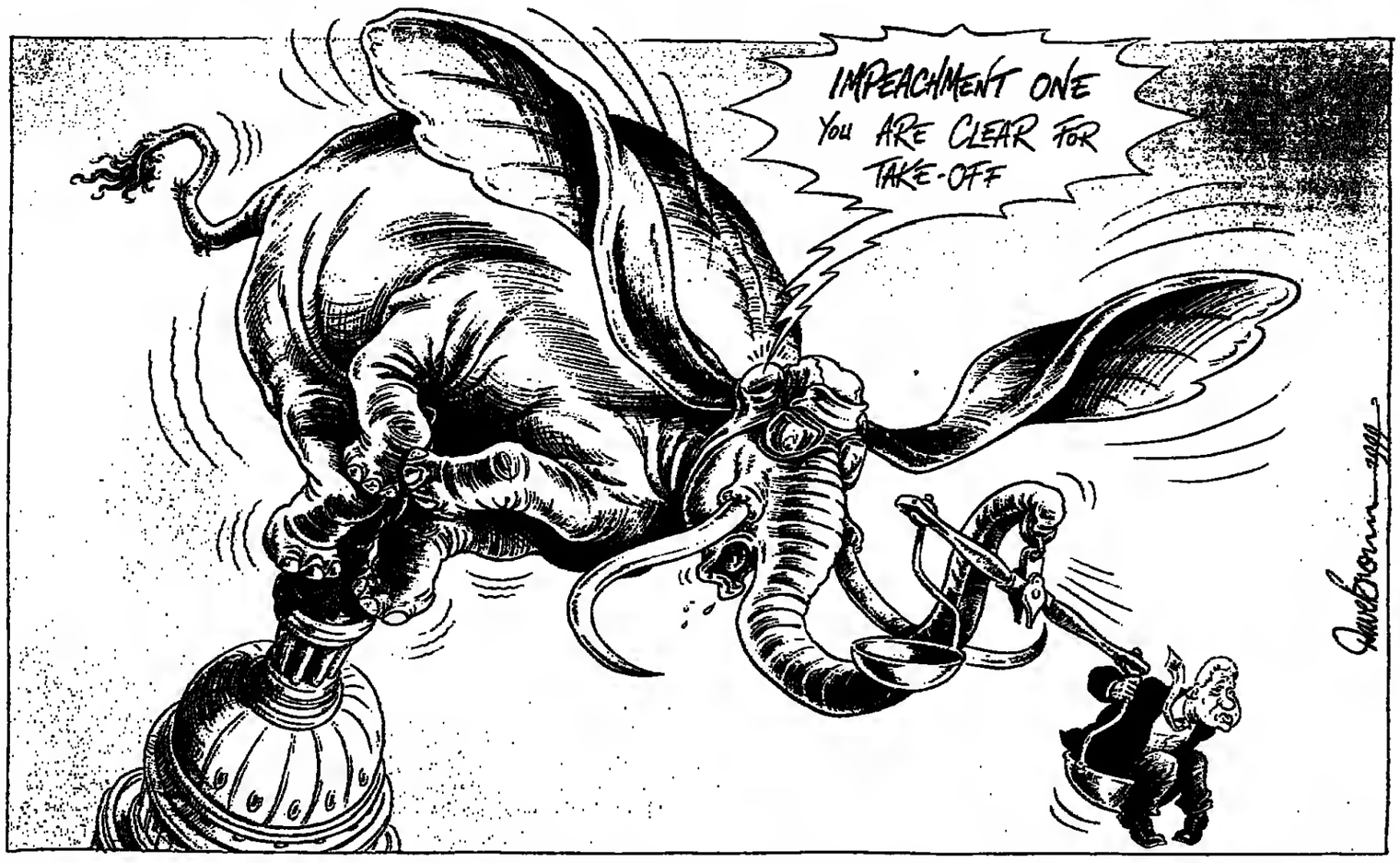
Within days of its launch, the euro has already been adopted by central banks and international investors as a major reserve currency. The Bank of England has even supplanted the Treasury in issuing bills of exchange denominated in the new euro.

In the short run this has had its benefits. As the value of the euro has risen on the foreign exchanges, the dollar has fallen, and with it sterling. The fears of an overvalued British currency destroying the country's export industry, so prevalent only a few months ago, are fast receding. The value of the pound is still not as low as industry, or even the Bank of England, would like. But it is not nearly as threatening as it was.

At the same time, on the latest figures, Britain appears to be moving towards recession – if recession indeed it should be – in a remarkably quiet and composed fashion. The indications are that demand even for services is beginning to fall, and with it the pressure on wages and prices. But the economy is not going into reverse, and may not do so for some time to come. Under these conditions the temptation for the wise men and one woman of the Bank's Monetary Committee will be to keep a holding position and wait to see what does emerge in the economy over the next few months.

That may be sensible in the short term. But it won't do for longer. The new reality for Britain is a currency that stands to rival the dollar in economic strength and international importance. Sterling will be left more and more a small sailing boat caught between two supertankers, pulled up and down with the dollar but equally liable to the swell from neighbouring Europe. In this situation the Bank of England will have to co-ordinate its actions with Europe. Already it is thinking of changing the UK definitions of inflation to fit the European criteria. When it does it will soon become apparent how high British rates are comparatively – not just by fractions but by a full per cent.

If that is the case, why not start now? The risks of inflation are minimal, the dangers of contraction are real. And why not start talking openly about what the euro does mean to us? Like it or not, we are part of a global village in which a new superstore has opened up on the high street.



Blair must take care not to fly into a trap

THIS WEEKEND Mr Blair will be in Kuwait to meet the crews of the British Tornados who participated in last month's air attacks against Iraq, and who daily run the risk of attack themselves as they patrol the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. The Prime Minister's spokesman says the visit is not to be seen as a bellicose gesture against Iraq. Mr Blair should be very careful that it does not become one.

Not long ago Mr Clinton was being praised for his "rope-a-dope" tactics of allowing Saddam Hussein to overreach himself in his obstruction of the UN arms inspectors, and thus provide Washington with the opportunity it sought to launch the air strikes. These days, it is Saddam who is learning a thing or two about rope-a-dope. By drawing US jets (and maybe soon those same Tornados that Mr Blair is about to inspect) into dogfights in what is officially Iraqi sovereign air space, he is seeking to have Britain and the US overreach themselves. Not in a military sense, of course, for Anglo-American air superiority is absolute – but in the subtler sense which explains these almost daily provocations.

Saddam's strategy is to persuade world opinion that London and Washington are the true bullies of the piece, beating up an Iraq already brought to its knees by sanctions. If the tepid reaction to his latest call for a popular uprising against Arab leaders who have failed to support him is anything to go by, the outside world still needs a good deal of persuading.

But that could change. The latest flurry of Iraqi aerial defiance suggests that the damage inflicted by last month's four days of bombardment is a good deal less than that claimed by American and British propaganda. Arab leaders may soon come to recognise the Iraqi President for the scoundrel he is.

But popular reaction in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere shows that on the street, Saddam is not without his sympathisers – and a few more lost air battles may win some more. The no-fly zones are crucial for the containment of Saddam. President Clinton and Mr Blair must not allow them to become the means of an Iraqi public relations victory.

A radar blip

MR BLAIR and Mr Brown are "shoulder to shoulder". Mr Prescott says the Prescott-Brown axis is "a load of nonsense". Mr Cook thinks the crisis has been got up by journalists. So, a concerted effort to restore unity. But the spin doctors' radar failed to detect Prince Edward's engagement. This happy but inconsequential event will easily displace politics in a press still obsessed, in the main, with the royals. Peter, they're missing you already.

There's nothing journalists love more than flexing their muscles

DAVID AARONOVITCH

Run enough stories and eventually there will be a reaction. This reaction, of course, vindicates the stories

IN THAT famous novel of political campaigning, *Primary Colors*, the narrator, Henry, describes how the US press corps (or "scorps" as he calls them) descend upon him, looking for his reaction to his rivals' reactions to a sex scandal that has not quite happened yet. In Henry's view the situation is surreal:

"They weren't scumbag gossip reporters, they were media analysts. The scorps weren't reporting the trash, but how we *dealt* with the trash. The story hadn't really broken yet, and already it was one step removed: the press was reporting about how the candidate would deal with how the press would report about the story."

When I first read that paragraph, penned by the veteran American political journalist Joe Klein (alias "Anonymous"), I was transported back to the election of 1992. Historians record that Labour lost this campaign for two main reasons: a lack of faith in Neil Kinnock as prospective prime minister, and the perception of Labour as a party of high taxation (although some of our more eccentric commentators throw in the Sheffield victory rally for good measure).

But no one argues today that the decisive factor was an incident surrounding a party political broadcast by Labour, transmitted on 24 March 1992, that came to be known as the War of Jennifer's Ear. They did then, though. As the background to a true story about ear grommets on the National Health became ever more convoluted, TV news viewers witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of newspaper journalists interviewing each other about who had told whom what trivia regarding the real Jennifer.

For the first time in the entire campaign the BBC newsroom came alive with some sort of excitement. Here, at last, was a real, running story. Front pages were held and the language was apocalyptic. Recrimination inside the Labour camp was intense. Yet, six years later, Labour's PR expert Philip Gould, in his book *The Unfinished Revolution*, concludes only that, "whatever our true position 'Jennifer's Ear' had not hurt us. It might even have helped."

It was a classic Beltway story, inflated beyond reason by the strange relationship that exists between political journalists and politicians. Something similar has been happening in America – albeit on a grander scale – for the last year. But ever since 23 December it has been Jennifer's Ear time again here in Britain. The initial revelation of the Mandelson loan was followed by stage two of the story, when tabloids and broadsheets scoured every soft furnisher's and design gallery in West London, looking for signs of high living.

But Peter departed, and the story threatened to go away. Various promising little pathways to do with the Britannia Building Society also seemed to lead nowhere. And so the whole thing mutated into a "who leaked the story" story. The more farcical part of this enquiry has involved *The Guardian* and *The Mirror* swapping insults and column inches on whether a package destined for Mr Paul Routledge, and containing his new Kitty Kelley-style biography of Mr Mandelson, was somehow hijacked by ruthless broadsheet backs. The only thing missing was one of those *Sunday Times* charts of the passage of the manuscript through various cubbyholes in the Commons press gallery.

Without any evidence at all, the blame for the leak was eventually hung around the hairy neck of Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's press secretary. This gave the Mandelson affair its third twist: the Chancellor was said to be at war with the Prime Minister. Once again, with little evidence adduced that there was any meaningful difference between Blair and Brown, vast screeds were devoted to the two men and their entourages, allies and enemies. Yesterday, after nearly a week of this and after Whelan had resigned, Tony Blair felt it necessary to tell the press that his relationship with Gordon was very close. Within hours I heard a newscaster ask a correspondent to agree that it was "significant that he felt the need to say this".

If you stop and consider for a moment, the circularity of the process becomes obvious. Run enough stories and eventually there will be a reaction. This reaction, of course, vindicates the original stories. Charlie Whelan said (and I believe him) that he resigned because "I had become the story". But as soon as he announced his departure some were asking, rhetorically, why – if he had done nothing wrong – he felt it necessary to go.

When we journalists ask politicians about "appearances" rather than substance ("But it doesn't look good, does it, minister?"), you can bet that we are on intellectually weak ground. On Wednesday the announcement of Prince Edward's impending marriage was covered on some outlets almost entirely in terms of how newspapers would report it, or had already reported it. This is not surprising, because the event itself has no significance whatsoever. Edward is the fourth child and will never ascend to the throne, and his wedding has only a certain titillating, soap-opera value. Except to him, of course.

But, unlike the case with the Whelan story, at least there was the excuse that some readers, viewers or listeners might be interested in it. By contrast very few people care about the Chancellor's press secretary, preferring to concentrate on arcane matters such as the funding of the health service. And, as with Jennifer's Ear, when the next election comes, the name Whelan will not be on the lips of those exiting from polling stations.

So why do we get these feeding frenzies? Our man in the States, Andrew Marshall, yesterday quoted the Internet muckraker, Matt Drudge, as having advised that "you gotta feed the machine slowly". But the machine is not fed by, say, the fact that there is an Aids epidemic in South Africa that threatens that country's ability to lead the continent out of poverty and tyranny. That story will be reported in the broadsheets, but it will simply not get the prominence or the journalistic effort expended upon it that will go into a Mandelson/Whelan saga.

I think there are two reasons for this, apart from the traditional anti-intellectualism of British journalistic culture. The first is that any story about spin doctors is really a story about us journalists ourselves. If they are the spinners, we are the spun; if they are manipulators, then we are the manipulated. We use them, and we hate them for it. They are our dark reflections. Or is it the other way round?

The second reason is egotism. Some of us prefer to shape the world rather than merely to reflect it; to create the news and not just report it. It was "*The Sun* wot won it" in '92, *The Guardian* that laid Mandelson low in '98, *The Mirror* that did for Charlie Whelan in '99, and next year – God willing – it will be that powerful, incisive journalist, David Aaronovitch, who will be responsible for the fall of Jack Cunningham...

Or someone like that. Mmmmm, feel my muscles.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Thinking outside the box in adult life is often the equivalent to a little naughtiness in childhood"
Charles Handy, management consultant

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In politics, nothing is contemptible."
Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The German press reflects on Britain's failure to adopt the euro

WHILE WE were toiling away on making the euro, the British in their fine pinstripes did not want to get their hands dirty. "Our pound is staying out," they said with a stiff upper lip. They see the euro as "stillborn", and the German Finance Minister as "the most dangerous man in Europe". Yet their pound is now losing ground against the euro, their companies lack a solid basis for calculations, their stocks are shaky. Big capital, like a tree full of ravens, is fleeing the island: Billions are being moved from London, in the direction of euroland. It was a high and proud horse upon which you Britons have climbed. But now you should quietly dismount.
Bild Zeitung

THE MAJORITY of Britons experienced the launch of the euro as a chapter in *Alice in Wonderland*: full of absurdities and contradictions.

To the crunch question of whether they can remain a great business nation without curtailing national self-determination, there is still no conclusive answer.

Trade and sovereignty: the euro is leading proud Britain into the torture chamber of an issue which one could always avoid in the past, but cannot do for much longer.
Die Welt

WHAT BRITAIN needs now is political leadership; business will soon be calling for it, since it wants a target date so that it can plan ahead.

In Blair's defence, it has to be pointed out that powerful EU partners have not made it easier to campaign for the euro and Europe. Lafontaine's statements caused a lot of broken china. Polls show that Blair has a hard task ahead.
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

HESITANT BRITAIN is reckoning on lots of action ahead. The pound has been moving closer to the dollar than European currencies have been.

Caught between the two gigantic blocks of the euro and the dollar, Britain's economy – which reacts sensitively to exchange rates – could soon lead to a hasty and spontaneous entry of the United Kingdom into the European monetary union.
Handelsblatt

PANDORA

THE SHADOW Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, will address the Young Conservative Group for Europe next week. At a meeting in the House of Commons, Howard, a hard-line Eurosceptic, will attempt to woo this young band of Europhiles now driven delirious by the launch of the euro. "The euro has been a success so far, and it is important that we put that message across to the party," one of the organisers told Pandora. However, the message is to be delivered behind closed doors because "we don't want to hang out our dirty washing in public." So, then, might Howard face a bit of boisterous ribaldry at the meeting? "We'll have to wait and see" said the young Europhile. That's funny. Isn't that what William Hague is saying about the single currency? Perhaps there will be unity in the Tory party after all.

TOM HANKS, three times an Oscar winner, is feeling the pressure of fame. As the combined gross of his two most recent films, *Saving Private Ryan* and *You've Got Mail*, passed $200m, the star told *Entertainment Weekly* that: "Sometimes being a movie star in a public place is like being a man with a chicken on his head, and everyone is looking and pointing." Hanks says that the closest he can get to anonymity is to "strip down naked in a hotel room and walk around on the patio". However, if reports that Hanks is interested in running for president in the year 2000 are true, he would be advised to keep his pants on.

ONE OF the few things that is known about Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, due to start today, is that the Supreme Court Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, will be in charge. Rehnquist presided over an equally controversial, but rather less up-to-date, trial in 1996 at the Indiana University School of Law, when he found Richard III not guilty of murdering his two nephews. Rehnquist failed to find the infamous monarch guilty "beyond reasonable doubt", calling the evidence a kind of "rumor upon rumor" [sic]. The question is, of course, will Bill Clinton be shown the same clemency?

WITH THE serialisation of Paul Routledge's book on Peter Mandelson, *The Mirror* has gone "Mandy" mad. The legendary Mandy label, which the former Cabinet minister is said to hate so much (see Pandora of 6 October), headlined no fewer than three times in yesterday's *Mirror*. First, in a report about relations with Gordon Brown, then the Routledge serialisation, and of course the cartoon strip "Mandy". This "Mandy" is about the antics of young girls rather than a cartoon pastiche of Mandelson's life. A pity, because the cartoon adventures of Mandy, Weggy, Charlie and Brownie would probably spin a good yarn.

LINDA TRIPP (pictured), who may or may not be called to the Clinton trial as a witness, is in trouble with her Internet service provider, Bruce Fisher. Fisher claims that Tripp, the White House confidante of Monica Lewinsky, has reneged on a $15,000 deal to maintain her website (lindatripp.com) and clear it of unwanted messages, one of which, according to the *New York Daily News*, read: "Linda Tripp is so ugly, she went into a haunted house and came out with an application." Fisher received only a token payment of $1,500 and a letter of apology from Tripp and her advisers. The Hawaii based internet company is hoping to encourage Tripp to pay up by ceasing their efforts to clean up the site. "There will be nasty stuff there again, but I hope it won't be vile," says Fisher.

PANDORA SALUTES the scientists who are still trying to work out why the *Titanic* sank. Even after nearly 90 years rivets recovered from the wreck are still being examined. The theory that weak rivets led to an "unzipping" of the ship's hull was publicised last year and has been added to by a US government scientist, Timothy Foecke. The scientist reveals to *The Washington Post* that fewer compartments would have flooded if the "average strength of the rivets had been higher". Wow, such spot-on analysis is obviously unsinkable, but surely the key player must remain the rather large iceberg in the Titanic's path?

Revealed: women are people too

ANNE MCELVOY

Successful women cannot be reduced to a set of qualities that can then be used like a recipe

FROM A survey this week, I learn that successful career women, like Indian mystics of yore, are able to "pass through the glass ceiling without noticing that it is there". I have never in fact seen this feat performed, at least not without some struggle with the resulting shards.

But Peter York, the report's compiler, sounded pretty sure of his facts after studying female bosses. These miracle women have learnt not to be too intense and ambitious. Hell no. "Gentleness with the male ego and determination not to use sexual weapons to unfair advantage are natural female behaviour for the intelligent, well-adjusted woman," chirped Mr York.

These placid and undemanding women struck me as vaguely familiar. Then I remembered Margaret Atwood's scary vision of a fundamentalist dystopia, *The Handmaid's Tale*, in which women are freed of the messy burdens and sordid pleasures of the modern world, are centrally selected for breeding without much fun along the way, wear long red robes and bow modestly to the good of the collective, stopping only to lynch apostates.

Mr York has managed to cross two repressive instincts and produce a hybrid of ghastly conformity. The first is the time-honoured male instinct, according to which women are to be seen and not heard. The second is the dreary North American corporatism of the Fifties which demanded that human beings behave like well trained robots.

Perhaps he could be forgiven all this, had he not outlawed dressing up when we have a mind to, the one residual bit of fun in office life. I'll give that up when the executive men around me shed their Richard James ties and the creative ones trade in their black crew necks.

The word "natural", lurking in the undergrowth of the argument, is a sure sign that something is amiss. From Mary Wollstonecraft onwards, awkward women have been complaining about having a view of naturalness foisted upon them which suits the describers, not the described. As Marilyn French pointed out in her acerbic essay on Lady Macbeth, the demonic power of her story rests on relentless imagery that instils into us the view that her behaviour is not only morally wrong, but also unnatural, since she is a woman and has no business breaking rules, trivial or serious.

Still, I thought, Mr York is a famous spotter of trends. Perhaps the man is right. Out with the red Versace, in with the fawn Laura Ashley. My new year's resolution was to spread a little calm, hold that barbed riposte and, when in doubt, murmur "You're so right."

Imagine my horror when this newspaper reported yesterday on a paper given to the British Psychological Society. It maintained that women who wish to become senior executives need to exhibit "macho kick-ass characteristics" in order to prosper. In five years of interviewing managers, the compiler had found that the best female ones did not mind being disliked, "because they had to take tough decisions".

What is the point of all this? The pseudo-science of studying pushy broads must be nicely profitable for those concerned. I can't see what use it is to the companies who pay for it. For a discreet but vast sum, I will give any bidder the benefit of my 10-year analysis of women in the workplace, summarised as follows:

1. Successful women cannot be reduced to a set of qualities that can then be used like a recipe: "take one part aptitude to two parts attitude and leaven with self-deprecation".

Fashions change. Companies that are going through insecure times like bossy women as bosses because it suggests confidence, even when the balance sheet does not support this view. In less turbulent periods, however, they tend to play safe.

2. The female of the species is more like the male than the male would like to think – she is neither more nor less altruistic. On the whole, ambitious women are not aiming for the top as part of a feminist crusade, but because it is nicer at the top than in the middle. Do not, therefore, expect female bosses to be particularly nice to other women. You would not expect such selflessness from men.

3. Ambitious women still strike men as rather odd, because male-dominated cultures prize uniformity. They see brutal self-advancement in the most innocuous gestures. "Are you networking furiously?" a colleague asked me at a party recently. At the time I was leaning against a wall, drinking wine and chatting to a friend.

4. (This is the revelatory bit). Women are people. There are different kinds of them. Some are loud and bouncy, others are quiet and mousy. A lot are in between. They all have their uses. The important thing is to remember that they are there.

How a minor dose of flu nearly felled the NHS

JEREMY LAURANCE

The lesson of this latest 'crisis' is that the condition of the health service remains fragile

I HAVE had flu. I know this because I experienced its defining symptom: an irresistible desire to lie down. When it happens there is no mistaking it. I took to my bed on New Year's Day, dosed myself with aspirin, paracetamol and regular tots of my mother-in-law's sloe gin and, in common with thousands of others, waited for the illness to pass.

You wonder why I am telling you this? Because there is a puzzle about the current flu outbreak which my own experience may help illuminate. According to the Royal College of General Practitioner's flu monitoring unit in Birmingham there is no epidemic. The numbers affected – fewer than than two in 1,000 people on yesterday's figures – are low by comparison with previous winters and will need to double before we have what is officially termed an epidemic.

If that is the case, why have half the people I know – or, at any rate, many more than one in a thousand of them – apparently been laid low by the bug? And why, more importantly, is the NHS struggling to cope, closing wards to all but emergency admissions, cancelling routine surgery and, ominously, hiring freezer lorries to provide temporarily expanded mortuary space?

The answer to the first question is the easiest. Figures recorded by the Royal College of General Practitioners' (RCGP) monitoring unit – the gold standard for flu watchers – are based on reports from 350 GPs in 90 practices in the UK covering 700,000 patients. Every patient who goes to see one of these GPs suffering from flu or a flu-like illness is reported to the monitoring unit and becomes a national statistic.

Thousands of sufferers – myself included – have not bothered their GPs for the very good reason that there is oothing they can do for flu that patients cannot do for themselves (drink plenty of fluids, go to bed, keep warm and take whatever over-the-counter remedy you prefer). The published figures therefore vastly underestimate the true incidence of the illness.

I suspect this disparity between the true level of illness and the published level has grown wider in recent years as public understanding of flu has improved. A viral illness such as flu cannot be shifted by antibiotics and, as more people recognise that GPs have nothing better to offer than TLC (tender loving care – and they tend to be short of that, too, at this time of year), they are increasingly dosing themselves at home rather than seeking help at the surgery. Thus while the RCGP unit declares this year's flu toll to be low, offices are denuded, paracetamol sales soar and homes echo to the sounds of groaning invalids begging for another Lemsip.

The more tricky question is why this low level of illness should be putting such an unwelcome stress on the NHS. The weather has been warm, the health service has had a generous cash injection to deal with winter pressures – £159m so far, with a further £50m in reserve – and the Government boasted some months ago that it was reopening or preventing the closure of 2,000 extra beds.

It poses the question of what would happen if there were a genuine epidemic, a prospect that seemed to worry Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, on Tuesday when he acknowledged that it would be "very difficult to cope". Compared with this year's two in 1,000 people suffering from flu, the 1993 outbreak peaked at 30 per cent above this level and the 1989 epidemic at more than two-and-a-half times above it. In 1969, the year of the last global pandemic, the infection rate hit 10 per 1,000, implying that more than 500,000 people were falling victim each week.

Were such a pandemic to occur again, and scientists predict that a repetition is inevitable, on the evidence of this week's experience we would need a fleet of freezer lorries to join the one hired by the Norfolk and Norwich hospital to expand its mortuary space.

The causes of the current NHS "crisis" are complex. The first point for the sceptical observer to bear in mind is that it has occurred just as the NHS pay review bodies are finalising their reports for presentation to the Cabinet. Inflation-busting rises in excess of 5 per cent for nurses and doctors are being sought by the unions and a crisis in the NHS, especially if it can be linked to staff shortages, provides a useful lever to loosen ministerial purse-strings.

The second point is that the NHS is in fact performing rather well, as yesterday's announcement of a record fall in the waiting-list demonstrates, but it has become a victim of its own success. Thousands more patients have been treated and operations carried out, raising bed occupancy rates and putting increased stress on facilities. The result is an NHS that, while well funded, is running close to capacity. Thus it is efficient in terms of producing maximum bang for each buck, but has little flexibility to accommodate sudden increases in demand such as occurred at Christmas. A few elderly people going down with flu can soon clog up a casualty unit if beds are full and there is nowhere to move patients on to.

Our over-crowded hospitals are under real strain *BBC*

That said, there are genuine staffing problems, especially among nurses and associated staff such as physiotherapists. A buoyant economy and low unemployment have meant stiff competition among employers for the 18-year-old school-leavers whom the NHS normally recruits. Hospitals have been losing out to Marks & Spencer, and, nationally, the Royal College of Nursing claims that 8,000 posts are vacant.

There is anecdotal evidence that problems blamed on the flu outbreak were in fact caused by the way Christmas fell on a Friday this year. That meant GP surgeries stayed closed for a full four days, rather than the normal two of Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Deputising services were unable to cope and patients phoned 999 instead. St James's University Hospital in Leeds, where attendances at accident and emergency were 50 per cent up between Christmas and the New Year compared with the previous year, was back to normal this week. No flu outbreak was ever over so swiftly.

The lesson of this latest "crisis" is that the condition of the NHS remains fragile, despite the large sums invested and even larger sums to come over the next three years. Though improving, the slightest pressure could be enough to trigger a relapse. The right prescription is a steady infusion of funds, careful monitoring and a recognition that cutting waiting-lists must never be allowed to usurp its central function – to provide immediately a bed and care for every truly ill patient in their hour of need.

How we can improve our buses

PODIUM

RICHARD KNOWLES

From a speech by Salford University's reader in geography to the Royal Geographical Society conference

AFTER NEARLY two decades of transport deregulation and privatisation, the Labour Government's 1998 Transport White Paper has put transport integration and re-regulation back on the political agenda. Integrated transport was made the central theme of the Transport White Paper in the context of growing intra- and inter-urban traffic congestion, predicted growth of car traffic (by more than one-third in the next 20 years), continuing decline in deregulated bus patronage, the declining mobility of 13 million people living in the 30 per cent of households that do not own cars, and rising carbon dioxide emissions.

From 1979 to 1997, the Conservative government's triple-track transport policy had deregulated transport services and fares, privatised state and put municipally-owned operators into the transport market.

However, most transport markets were not contested and deregulation often resulted in near-monopoly control of local areas by a single transport company. Deregulation also reduced through-ticketing and interchange between rail and bus. Since 1986, local bus deregulation outside Greater London and bus privatisation have led to a 29 per cent fall in passenger numbers despite a 25 per cent increase in bus mileage, a real increase in bus fares of 22 per cent and a fall in operating costs of more than a third in real terms (mainly through reduced drivers' wages and fewer management and engineering staff), while public subsidy has been cut by more than half.

The new integrated transport policy defines integration in four ways: integration between and within transport modes locally and nationally; integration of transport and land use planning; integration with the environment; integration with education, health and wealth creation policies

However, the White Paper's radical policies are not supported with the substantial increase in public transport capital investment which is needed to improve its quality and quantity sufficiently to attract many current car users to switch modes.

This puts at risk the success of the integrated transport policy which the Deputy Prime Minister said should be judged on whether car usage had declined by 2003. Few car users are likely to switch to public transport or cycling without either substantial prior capital investment in much higher-quality bus and rail systems and cycle networks, or financial incentives.

The White Paper itself was delayed while more radical policies were deleted in fear of a political backlash from car-owning voters. Thus taxing car park spaces at out-of-town leisure and retail sites was omitted, company car benefits were retained, no targets were set for road traffic reduction and traffic speeds were not addressed either by stricter enforcement or lower general speed limits.

Proposals for workplace car parking charges and motorway tolls have been deferred while the decision (and potential backlash) on whether to introduce congestion-charging on urban roads has been given to individual local authorities without any guarantee that they will be able to ring-fence and spend the income raised on transport schemes. Re-regulation of bus fares was not even considered in the White Paper.

Although bus patronage continues to decline, buses are still the main form of public transport in Britain outside Greater London. The challenge is to provide better quality buses, with faster, more reliable journey times sufficiently improved for car users to switch modes for some journeys without either substantial extra public funding of public transport or real disincentives to use cars.

The Government hopes that "Quality Partnerships" can produce better local bus services through voluntary co-operation between local councils which, as highway authorities, own the road space, and the privately-owned bus companies which operate most bus services. The Deputy Prime Minister's view is clear: "The bus must have priority on the road. That will lead to faster, more reliable services which attract more passengers." Some bus companies see Quality Partnerships as good business and good publicity, particularly FirstGroup, Arriva and Stagecoach, which together control 60 per cent of the British bus market.

The Government's Integrated Transport Policy lacks the substantial investment in public transport needed. Government policy therefore relies heavily on the success of low-cost Quality Partnerships. In-depth analysis on a "before and after" basis is needed to measure the extent to which Bus Quality Partnerships can change travel behaviour.

Don't be fooled by China

CHRIS PATTEN

It's a simple truth – you can only do business with totalitarians if you lick their boots first

'The advantages nf socialism': mnunds of ruhhish on the streets of Shanghai reflect the inefficiency of China's nutmnded economic and social policies

ONE OF the more hizarre events of last year was the attempt to parade China's Premier, Zhu Rongji, as an Asian representative of the Third Way. Mr Zhu, who has a sense of bumour, must have been quietly amused. He made his own position clear recently when greeting his Vietnamese opposite number. The purported ability of the Vietnamese and Chinese economies to withstand the effects of the Asian financial crash demonstrated, according to Zhu, "the advantage of socialism". Surely not even John Prescott would have gone quite that far.

What did Zhu actually mean by this? He was presumably characterising the measures taken by China over the past year, even as Western leaders fell over themselves in the rush to Peking to pay tribute to the wisdom and growing open-mindedness – so it is claimed – of China's leaders. He must have been thinking of foreign exchange controls, backtracking on privatisation, the total politicisation of credit, restrictions on market access and a crack-down on any sign of political dissent. It is this sort of backlash against greater economic and political openness, not confined to China, which threatens serious trouble for Asia and therefore for the rest of us in the year ahead.

The case for authoritarianism, usually corrupt and often incompetent, was one of the main casualties of the Asian crash that began 18 mouths ago. What had once been lauded as visionary nation-huilding – Indonesia plc, South Korea Inc – was now denounced as crony capitalism. No longer were outsiders likely to sit quiet while being lectured on the moral relativity of human rights and on the close relationship between GDP growth and the curbing of democracy, civil society and freedom.

There were proximate financial and economic causes of Asia's crisis – above all, perhaps, the slump in Japan which represents three-quarters of the whole region's economy. But the underlying reasons for the turmoil were political.

The analysis was not breathtakingly original. The wonder is that so many people had overlooked it for so long. Sustainable economic progress requires open markets and free trade, and they flourish best in liberal democracies under the rule of law. "Is that all you've got to say?" someone once asked me accusingly. "Er, well, yes actually." It's a simple truth, periodically huried under self-serving drivel about the inscrutable differences of the Orient or under the humiliating and unproven assumption that you can only do business with totalitarians if you lick their boots first.

Recovery in Asia is going to be slow and patchy. It will be led hy those countries that have most enthusiastically embraced the need for change. For those that seek to spit into the wind, worse is probably still to come.

While China was locking up democracy activists the other day, Taiwan was counting the votes in its latest round of elections. Taiwan is a free society, increasingly open, with an economy that has done better than any other in Asia over the last year of turmoil.

South Korea's economic collapse in the autumn of 1997 scared international bankers and worried the world's international financial institutions. The Koreans still have some way to go, but under a democratic government, led by the intrepid Kim Dae Jung, they are making headway. The currency has stabilised and strengthened. Interest rates have been cut.

In Thailand – where the crash began – the most democratic government in the country's history is making steady progress under its decent prime minister, Chuan Leekpai. From the outset the Thais recognised that political and economic reform must go hand it hand. They too have seen their currency strengthen and interest rates fall. Confidence has started to return.

Elsewhere, some governments have set a different course. Malaysia is one of the most worrying examples. Dr Mahathir reacted to the crisis by turning his back on reform and locking up its principal advocate, his deputy Anwar Ibrahim. Anwar's trial has turned into a ghastly paradigm of the corrupt authoritarianism and nonsense economies that threaten a turbulent future for his country.

But China represents the most significant attempt to force a passage through the financial storms with a combination of statist economies and Leninist politics. And all this has happened during a year in which "constructive engagement" with China has been justified on the grounds that it is the right, indeed the only way to secure improvements in human rights and continued economic reform,.

It is difficult to be against engagement: you cannot contain more than a fifth of humanity. But I see no reason why engagement should involve fooling ourselves about what's happening in China, or hiting our tongues about the issue that will shape Asia's future – the triumph or failure of liberal, pluralist values.

First, China is not an emerging and stable economic giant, about to elbow Japan off centre stage. The welcome decision not to devalue its currency (so far) has been taken in its own interest. China's alleged stability has been based on controls over capital flows – exactly the sort of controls that we have pressed other countries to scrap. A tighter foreign exchange regime, so damaging to international companies, has been brought in to stem capital flight, the scale of which in recent years equalled foreign investment into China.

Second, the economic reform process in China has stalled because of the political dangers of going ahead with it. Closing down clapped-out state-owned firms risks rising unemployment and social turbulence. Growing economic problems are almost certainly the reason for tougher political controls. The recent harsh sentences handed out to democracy activists are only part of a much wider campaign against dissent, including new rules affecting film-makers and computer software developers. .

The winter's political freeze in China tells us far more about what's happening to the real economy than any official statistics. Yet the longer the government postpones wide-ranging reform, the more money it will have to pour from its commercial banks into the bottomless pit of the nationalised firms.

So as the Chinese hatten down the hatches at the start of what could be a very humpy year, what do they make of us? They have seen the West humiliate and isolate its friends in the democracies of India and Japan in order to promote what is claimed to he a more mature relationship with China – a relationship that has seen China strongly attacking US and British policy in the Gulf (which was supported by Japan) and showing no interest in helping to defuse a growing crisis in North Korea.

They have turned Europe and America inside out on human rights, cynically signing international covenants that they have no intention of ratifying or keeping, trading the occasional sick prisoner for a day's headlines, depending with total confidence on our continuing timorous self-deception. How much worse do they have to behave before someone in the West is prepared to say something about "the disadvantages of socialism"?

It is crucial in the coming months that European and American leaders speak out, as to his credit Al Gore did in Kuala Lumpur, on the case for liberal economics and politics in Asia and around the world. We should praise those who are courageously doing the right thing, give more help to those like the Indonesians who want to do what is right hut are finding the path of reform hard going, and refuse to have any truck with the argument that the Asian crisis partly caused hy authoritarianism can only be cured by a bigger dose of the same.

Democracy, transparency, free speech, civil society, the rule of law – these are not Western phenomena, they are universally valid. We should recognise that our best friends are those who believe in these things. They are more likely to be economically successful partners as well.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MARJORIE ORR

The astrologer for 'The Express' newspaper responds to John Walsh's attack on divination

BEING THE butt of withering contempt, and cheap and easy jibes like those of Scorpio John Walsh, goes with the job of astrology. (Why are attacks often from Scorpios? They can't possibly all be the same, can they?)

Maybe astrology unsettles the critics' need for control. They loathe the idea that they may not be in charge of their own destiny. There is free will – a limited amount – but the astrological influences still drive things. Knowing what the influences are helps ordinary, open-minded people know where to put their energy. Emollient? Most people live lives of mild to major desperation and need some sense of order, however unexplained or trashed by the intellectual gestapo. Yes, there are times when one knows that there will be immense pressure, hut telling readers that they may be driven off the edge is hardly a reasonable option.

Clairvoyant I ain't. Once I tried a crystal ball. It gave me a headache and I keep it only for photographers, who run on a predictably narrow agenda. Astrology is worked out, simply or in complex detail, on astronomical positions and mathematical calculations. It will not make literal predictions – say, that Saturn moving into Taurus in April will cause a tree to fall on your car. But it will tell you that Scorpios will feel increasingly separated from relationships that were once close.

Journalists and scientists may join the general howl, hut they run against the tide of what ordinary people know to be the case. Astrology will not explain all of life or make your decisions for you. But it is a hugely successful tool for explaining personality types and it is the only system in existence at the moment which can predict influences which do, undoubtedly, affect human behaviour.

Stop blaming Mum and Dad

THURSDAY BOOK

THE NURTURE ASSUMPTION: WHY CHILDREN TURN OUT THE WAY THEY DO
BY JUDITH RICH HARRIS, BLOOMSBURY, £18.99

TORMENTED BY a belief that our parents messed us up, and fearful of the damage we will inflict on the next generation, Western adults have long needed a saviour. Someone who can relieve us of Philip Larkin's worrying burden: "They fuck you up, your mum and dad./ They may not mean to, but they do./ They fill you with the faults they had/ And add some extra, just for you."

Judith Rich Harris is a fiery iconoclast who offers relief. If you accept the central thesis of the "nurture assumption", you can at last relax about raising your children. You can stop berating yourself about not giving them enough attention. When they end up drop-outs, drug addicts or simply difficult, you need no longer wonder where you went wrong. Because, if Harris is right, there was not much you could have done in any case.

Far from being a lasting influence in child development, she says, parental upbringing is less important than genes and peers. If you want your children to turn out well, worry about who your partner is and who your children's mates are. But don't fret about spending too long at work and too little time reading with them. And, while you are chucking out the wisdom of today's child advisers, give your own parents a ring and let them off the book. You are not their fault.

It is easy to understand why Harris's work is controversial. It plunges into emotive politics, using overblown language that has raised her voice above the general din in this field. Her book can be read as a manifesto for day care. It provides a coherent, guilt-reducing ideology for those who cannot or will not spend much time with their children. So it will he given an extensive examination by the opinion-forming classes, desperate to rationalise their overworked lives.

It will also depress many. It strikes a chord with a culture that offers little respect for those who are involved in the skilled and demanding job of raising children. It also undermines the latest generation of aspirational fathers, a group who may in the coming decade inject fresh status into caring for children. If parenting is inconsequential, then fathers don't matter much either, so the new generation of men must be wasting its energy.

There is a lot at stake. Let's stick to the important question: is Harris right in saying that parents do not matter much in building their children's character? Her crucial allies are the behavioural geneticists, who have demonstrated that there are few predictable similarities between siblings reared together, and amazing similarities between identical twins raised in very different homes. She takes this observation to mean that parental nurturing is not influential.

However, Harris is not a genetic determinist. Heredity, she says, accounts for only about 50 per cent of variation in personality traits. If parents are not responsible for the rest of buman personality, who is? The peer group, she answers. Look at the children of non-English-speaking immigrants. Despite their parents' inadequacies, they turn into Americans. Likewise, observe the children of deaf parents. They learn to speak, even though in their early years they do not hear much language. These examples, she says, vividly demonstrate bow much more important is the outside world in child development.

This is too short a summary to do full justice to Harris's arguments, which are based on a vast survey of the available literature. Her book is worth reading if only for the pleasure of watching an acknowledged outsider taking on the conventional wisdom with such chutzpah. But I find some serious flaws in her approach. For a start, her theory of personality development seems to rely too heavily on a theory of language development. It is, therefore, far from proven. I can't help feeling that she started out by assuming her conclusion that peers are, on the nurture side, all-important in creating character. It is a shame that she has not questioned her own theories with the same intensity she focuses on others'.

Second, Harris is disingenuous in the way she writes about parents. The facts are all there, but some of the important ones are deeply buried. If you read closely you will discover that sbe accepts the importance of early relationships, up to age four. Sbe agrees that parents inhabit our thoughts for life, and that they can make the difference between a happy and a miserable childhood. And, of course, they are highly influential in determining the child's peer group.

That is quite a lot, for someone who is selling her book on the basis that parents do not really matter. I salute Judith Rich Harris's intellectual tenacity. But, as a journalist, I can spot sensationalism and ideology dressed up as science. This book has encouraged me to relax a bit as a parent, for which I am thankful. But I still think, if only by reading between the lines, that what I do as a father matters a great deal.

JACK O'SULLIVAN

Even the Prime Minister, it seems, may have little influence on his children

THURSDAY POEM

VENUS ON HER BIRTHDAY
BY SARAH CORBETT

This is my big day.
Here I am, blushing,
a sherbet and cream harlot
blown in on a seashell.

Have I missed something,
cold as alabaster as I am?
I crave a muscular warmth,
a hand reaching out, sighing.

Instead, it's raining roses,
their wet scent staining the light.
They are bloodless, washed out versions,
a silence for shouting.

On the shore a man paints.
With his brush poised he waits, waits.

Our poems this week come from volumes shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Sarah Corbett's 'The Red Wardrobe' is published by 5eren (£6.95)

Judge Michael Argyle

A VARIATION of the curse "May you live in interesting times" could, for defendants in criminal cases, be "May you have an interesting judge". Michael Argyle, who sat for many years at the Old Bailey, was never less than interesting. Unpredictable, volatile, right-wing, deaf to political correctness, he was one of the old-fashioned judges who are described euphemistically as "robust" and by disappointed defendants and not a few counsel who appeared before him as "a dog". Ultimately, with an early retirement in 1988 he paid the price for his views and utterances, but he remained unrepentant to the end of his life.

Argyle was educated at Westminster School and later at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar, joining Lincoln's Inn, in 1938 but with the coming of the Second World War his career was interrupted almost before it had begun. He served with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars in the Middle East, India and then Italy where he was awarded an immediate Military Cross for organising a tank crossing of the Po.

He returned to the Bar and the Midland Circuit in 1947. His best-known criminal case was his appearance for Ronald Biggs in the Great Train Robbery of 1963. Later he sent a contribution to the fund for Jack Mills, the driver injured during the robbery.

He became the Recorder of Northampton in 1962 and of Birmingham from 1965 to 1972 when he became a Circuit Judge, being appointed an Additional Judge at the Old Bailey. He had already made his mark as a reporter's judge with his comments whilst in Birmingham and over the years a small folio could have been compiled of some of his more outrageous remarks. Amongst them was his comment to an attempted rapist on whom he imposed a suspended sentence. "You come from Derby which is my part of the world. Off you go and don't come back." Others included "You are far too attractive to be a policewoman – you should be a film star"; "a vicious little sodomite from Glasgow" to a mugging victim; and, when a strike had cancelled television coverage of a Test match in the West Indies, "It is enough to make an orthodox Jew want to join the Nazi party." It is Argyle to whom the term "Thiefrow" is attributed, following a spate of thefts at Heathrow airport.

Shortly after he first sat at the Old Bailey, he became involved in a *cause célèbre* when he presided over the so-called "Oz Trial". This satirical magazine produced a "schoolkids' issue", purporting to be written by children and which contained cartoons and articles on sadism and homosexuality. Despite attempts by the defence to introduce a certain amount of humour into the trial, Argyle was not amused, at one time reprimanding a group of American judges for sniggering.

His remarks could be outrageous. 'It is enough to make an orthodox Jew want to join the Nazi party.' Or, 'You are far too attractive to be a policewoman – you should be a film star'

Argyle's summing-up was hopelessly flawed and he then remanded the defendants in custody pending sentencing. The *New Law Journal* commented that the refusal by the Court of Appeal to grant bail was "another instance of the negation of the appellate function". Few expected there to be custodial sentences imposed. But when they were, the *New Law Journal* again commented that they were "indefensibly severe".

Argyle had seen the trial as one on which the survival of Christian civilisation depended. Years later, on Central Television, he commented that "... the traffic in soft porn and drugs resumed. If firmer stands had been taken by those in authority, a lot of people who have since been on drugs would never have been on them." In 1995 *The Spectator* was obliged to make an apology over an article by Argyle, to one of the *Oz* trial defendants, Felix Dennis, who at the time of the trial had been described by him as "very much less intelligent" than his fellows. Dennis had gone on to become a millionaire businessman.

Argyle was also upset, perhaps with more justification, when the Court of Appeal had reduced a life sentence on a soccer thug who had attacked a publican to three years. "Just about the next thing that happened was the Heysel Stadium tragedy. Football hooligans from then on felt they were fireproof."

He was a judge who believed that crime could be controlled by stiff sentences and that hardened criminals really only understood prison. He claimed complete support for his campaign to eradicate telephone kiosk vandalism in Birmingham. He also threatened life imprisonment for burglars, something which produced a reported, if temporary, 40 per cent drop in the crime rate in the city.

Argyle, however, was one of the judges who actually took a genuine interest in the welfare of those defendants whom he believed needed help and he would work throughout his luncheon trying to find work for young people. He attended night school to learn more about penology and was well ahead of his era when he suggested the criminal justice system should pay more attention to victims.

The end of his judicial career came with injudicious remarks at a speech to law students in Nottingham in July 1987 when he suggested that there were more than five million immigrants in Britain and that judges should be allowed to impose the death penalty in cases which carried penalties of more than 15 years. The Lord Chancellor, Michael Havers, reprimanded him and two months later Argyle announced he would retire the following year.

After that he continued to write to the newspapers about his *bêtes noires*, suggesting that Lord Longford had become a bore over his continuous championing of Myra Hindley and that the tapes of the children's cries should be played on prime time television and radio. "I warrant that more people will tune in than watched Torvill and Dean." He believed that, when Britain had extricated itself from Europe and the United Nations, things would get better and the weather would pick up. As for a suggestion by probation officers in 1990 that non-dangerous criminals should not go to prison, he considered that "claptrap", at the same time reiterating his call for the return of the death penalty.

A country and sporting man, who could not understand that his wife's racing colours "Nigger Brown, black cap" could cause offence, he was a noted whippet breeder. He was also keen on promoting terrier racing and, a life-time betting man who regularly visited bookmakers near the Old Bailey, was a supporter of National Hunt Racing. Convivial in private life, he was a member of the Carlton and the Cavalry as well as the Kennel Club. In the early 1950s he had unsuccessfully contested seats at Belper and Loughborough on behalf of the Conservative Party.

JAMES MORTON

Michael Victor Argyle, judge: born 31 August 1915; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1938, Bencher 1967, Treasurer 1984; MC 1945; QC 1961; Recorder of Northampton 1962-65, of Birmingham 1965-70; Circuit Judge and an Additional Judge of the Central Criminal Court 1970-88; married 1951 Ann Newton (died 1994; three daughters); died Fiskerton, Nottinghamshire 4 January 1999.

Argyle was involved in controversy from when he first sat at the Old Bailey, in the *Oz* trial

Joan Brossa

'I want to see where different creative processes lead me'

JOAN BROSSA was one of those subversive Catalans whose Surrealist vision defied artistic and political convention, tossing aside the boundaries between poetry, literature and art. He pioneered the concept of "visual poetry", defining it as "the expression of a poetic world by means of a visual code". He adored magic and the cinema, and his experimental work anticipated installation art and the anarchic "happenings" of the 1960s.

His "object poems" astonished the avant-garde Catalan art world in the 1940s with their ironic clash of disparate elements. A football crowned with a *peineta* (the comb that secures a lady's lace mantilla) represented "*Pats*" ("Nation"). "Conscientious Objector" showed a rifle butt topped with a church candle-snuffer. "Dirty Soap" is a cake of soap bearing a fingerprint.

Through his work he created a cheery and satirical Brossian world: a universe constructed from letters of the alphabet, objects from daily life, personalities of music hall, of silent movies, of strip-tease. "The last of the Utopians," one fan called him last week, "a great idealist who still had the ability to make us laugh". Another relished his "fine taste for the absurdities of existence".

Brossa was a restless youngster from a modest background whose family thought he would become an office clerk. In 1936, aged 17, he left his studies to fight for the republicans in the Civil War. Brossa marched to the Lerida front with a book by the poet Federico García Lorca tucked in his pocket. Brossa's first poem, about a battle at Segre, so pleased his commanders that they read it aloud to the whole battalion.

On his return to Barcelona he started to sell books banned by Franco. He imported them from Argentina and sold them to friends who then invited him to dinner. They introduced him to the Catalan poet J.V. Foix, the arts patron Joan Prats and the artist Joan Miró, who introduced him to Surrealism.

Brossa founded the Surrealist magazine *Dau al Set* in 1948 with a number of Catalan artists including Antoni Tàpies, with whom he shared a passion for Wagner. His poems, in Catalan, were first published in 1951 and his last book appeared in 1987.

Brossa formed the link between the modernist movements of the early 20th century and the faint breath of artistic renewal that stirred the Francoist cultural desert of the late 1940s and early 1950s. Like many of his generation who spent his youth in war and his adulthood squeezed by censorship, Brossa was an old man before his work was widely appreciated.

His theatrical works were performed clandestinely, on improvised stages, in friends' houses. They included *Or i sang* ("Gold and Blood") with sets designed by Tàpies, and a number of experimental films including *Cua de cuc* ("Worm's Tail"). As censorship eased in the Sixties, Brossa published plays and collections of poems.

He read his poems at the Berlin Festival of 1978, and at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. There followed the book *U no es ningu* ("One is Not Nobody"), illustrated by Tàpies. By the 1980s Brossa was hailed internationally as a quirky eccentric artist who defied attempts to slot him into an "ism", an outsider with finely honed communication skills. Nearly all his theatrical works and dances were performed in this period.

At 70 he stepped into the great hall at the university of Santiago de Compostela to a 10-minute standing ovation from crowds of art and literature students. He began collecting literary and dramatic awards; and in 1989 he created a visual poem that celebrated the high-speed train.

Brossa embraced the main cultural adventures of his time – Dadaism, Surrealism, psychoanalysis, the fascination with the unconscious, zen, contemporary music, magic – and sought to develop a personal response to each. "My work has its own dynamic," he once said, "because I want to see where different creative processes lead me."

He sought to push out the frontiers of poetry, to make it provocative and modern. He explored new methods, first with words, then on the stage, later with images and finally objects. His poetry moved from the literary to the concrete, from verbal to visual images, in which the idea always took precedence over the aesthetic.

Art critics reproached him for blundering into their world, but Brossa reckoned that "today's poet must broaden his horizons, move away from books and project himself through the various means that society itself provides. The poet must use them like unexpected vehicles, infusing them with an ethical content that society does not confer upon them."

He wanted to astonish the viewer and subvert logic. Over the years his assemblages of playing cards, watches, knives, hammers, spectacles, balls, top hats and combs formed a mordant critique of social and religious conventions. He mounted an exhibition in the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona in 1986 and held a restrospective in Madrid's Reina Sofia modern art museum in 1991.

His personal style remained that of the unrepentant lefty: dishevelled, ill-shaven and hundled up in an overcoat. He loved travelling on the bus, proudly flourishing his free pass given by the public transport authority of Barcelona, the city to which he donated all his works in 1987.

When he died he had a number of commissions in hand: several urban installations in a Barcelona suburb, a mural in a municipal hall, a sculpture in homage to Lorca at the poet's former lodgings at the Residencia de Eatudiantes in Madrid, another in Granada.

"I receive a lot of requests," he said, a few weeks before he badly banged his head in a fall, and died two days later. He had been organising a big 80th birthday party where he planned to perform the magic tricks for which he was renowned.

ELIZABETH NASH

Joan Brossa, poet: born Barcelona 19 January 1919; married Pepa Llopis; died Barcelona 30 December 1998.

John McGrath

THE LURID public persona of John McGrath – something between Desperate Dan and Attila the Hun, as perceived by the average English football fan during the 1960s and early 1970s – was viewed wryly by those who had monitored the progress of the hurly Mancunian at his first professional club.

At Bury, whom he had joined in 1955 after failing to break through as an amateur with Bolton Wanderers, McGrath was seen primarily as a constructive centre-half for whom lofty ambitions were harboured. Indeed, there were those at Gigg Lane who saw in the personable son of a policeman a certain likeness to John Charles, the "Gentle Giant" a byword for polished central-defensive excellence. In the event, McGrath never proved remotely close to the majestic Welshman in terms of class, but he did enjoy a worthy and colourful career, much of which was spent in England's top division.

After becoming established at Bury, he left the Shakers three months before they claimed the Third Division Championship in 1961, though he had played enough games to earn a medal. Evidence of his burgeoning status were his destination, Newcastle United, and his fee, £24,000, plus the services of the hugely respected veteran Bobby Stokoe.

However, despite winning England under-23 honours shortly after his move, McGrath took time to settle at St James' Park, and the hopes of his boss Charlie Mitten that the newcomer would be instrumental in saving the ailing Magpies from relegation were dashed. It was not until the pragmatic Joe Harvey became the long-term replacement for the adventurous Mitten that the young defender began to flourish. Under Harvey his game was transformed, a new and often fearsomely abrasive approach belying his genial character, and he formed a formidable half-back line alongside Stan Anderson and Jim Iley which inspired Newcastle to the Second Division title in 1964/65.

Back among the élite, McGrath prospered for a season, but then found himself squeezed out by a combination of Ollie Burton, John McNamee and the richly promising Bobby Moncur. Accordingly in February 1968 he accepted a £30,000 transfer to Southampton, for whom he became the commanding cornerstone of one of the First Division's most rugged rearguards. So outstanding was his form at the Dell that he moved to the verge of full England recognition, although selection for the Football League in 1969 was the closest he came.

In 1973, McGrath took up coaching with Southampton, whom he left in 1979 to become manager of Port Vale. After a sticky start with a poor side, he led them to promotion from Division Four in 1983, only to be sacked later that year when the Valiants floundered at the higher level. He encountered further travail at the helm of Chester before tasting success with Preston North End, whom he guided up to the Third Division in 1987 and to the promotion play-offs two years later.

However, he returned to the basement with Halifax Town, where cash was so short that, as he put it at one press briefing, there wasn't enough to feed the club cat. The upshot was that the Shay was deluged with cat-food from animal-lovers all over England – and Halifax had no cat!

Though John McGrath's wit did not save him from dismissal in November 1992, it served him admirably in his subsequent successful career as an after-dinner speaker and as a soccer pundit on local radio in Lancashire.

IVAN PONTING

John Thomas McGrath, footballer and manager: born Manchester 23 August 1938; played for Bury 1955-61, Newcastle United 1961-68, Southampton 1968-74, Brighton on loan 1972; managed Port Vale 1979-83, Chester City 1984-85, Preston North End 1986-90, Halifax Town 1991-92; married; died Middleton, Greater Manchester 25 December 1998.

Iron Eyes Cody

IRON EYES Cody, a Cherokee born in Oklahoma, was one of several real American Indians to have had a lifetime career portraying native Americans on screen. Cody appeared in over 100 film and television shows – in many of them billed simply as "Indian", "Indian Chief" or "Indian Joe", and frequently acted as adviser for Indian sequences.

He had strong opinions about how his people should be portrayed in films, often correcting misconceptions about their culture, behaviour or history. To Americans, he will be best remembered for a series of 1970s television commercials and print advertisements for an anti-litter campaign, "Keep America Beautiful", which showed Cody shedding a single tear as he watched people pollute the environment with litter, and he devoted much of his later life to supporting the movement.

Cody's date of birth is generally considered to have been 3 April 1907, though dates from 1904 to 1915 have been given. His mother, Frances Salpet, was a Cree and his father, Thomas Long Plume, a Cherokee who performed in Wild West shows and circuses. Cody joined his father on the tent-show circuit at an early age, and is reputed to have made his screen début as a child in *Massacre* (1912).

He was a dancer in *The Squaw Man* (1914), co-directed by Cecil B. De Mille, who was to use Cody several times through the years, and other silent films included *The Covered Wagon* (1923), *The Iron Horse* (1924, directed by John Ford), *The Vanishing American* (1925) and *War Paint* (1926).

He was even more prolific with the coming of sound, acting in several serials as well as features. In 1931 he was one of the warriors menacing a wagon train in an early Gary Cooper vehicle, *Fighting Caravans*, and he took part in a serial, *Lightning Warrior*, starring the wonder dog Rin Tin Tin in his last film which, with its action sequences and stunt-work handled by the famed Yakima Canutt, is considered the canine's finest hour.

Cody twice in his career stepped surprisingly out of character to play a cowboy – first in *Cimarron* (1931), the first western to win an Academy Award, then 44 years later in Howard Zieff's beguiling celebration of old Hollywood, *Hearts of the West* (1975). Generally, though, he was the standard feather-garbed Indian of few words, though he became noted for his insistence on authenticity, and served as a technical adviser on many of the films in which he acted, including De Mille's *Union Pacific* (1939), *North West Mounted Police* (1940) and *Unconquered* (1947).

'Indians don't cry': Cody, centre, in *The Wild Dakotas*, 1956 — *Ronald Grant Archive*

Not without a sense of humour, he took part in three Bob Hope comedies, *The Paleface* (1948), *Son of Paleface* (1952) and *Alias Jesse Jomes* (1959), the Abbott and Costello musical comedy *Ride 'Em Cowboy* (1942) and one of the best films to star the Bowery Boys, *Bowery Buckaroos* (1947) in which the boys weot west to "prosecute for gold". Major westerns in which he featured included one of the first in a cycle of films treating the Indians sympathetically and as victims of mistreatment, Delmer Daves's *Broken Arrow* (1950).

Later in the Fifties, Cody and his wife, Ga Yeawas, hosted a television programme explaining Indian history and folklore. Ga Yeawas was a Seneca Indian (not a squaw, Cody was quick to point out) and the daughter of the anthropologist Dr Arthur C. Parker, the founder of National Indian Day. She was also the descendant of General Ely S. Parker, who served under Ulysses S. Grant, became the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs and was himself an Indian. The couple's two sons (one is oow deceased) were champion Indian dancers, and Robert, who survives, performed his ritual dances before the preseot queen.

In 1970 a California advertising agency discovered Cody when devising a campaign for the group Keep America Beautiful, and they cast him as the "crying Indian", whose face, shedding a single, eloquent tear at the sight of a landscape polluted with garbage, litter and smoke, was first shown on Earth Day 1971, and quickly became a symbol of the anti-litter campaign and a familiar image to Americans. "It was more than advertising," said Roger Powers, who was the agency's president at the time. "What we found – it was a stroke of luck – was a man who lived it and believed in it."

At first Cody had refused to do the commercial, arguing that "Indians doo't cry", but Lady Bird Johnson persuaded him to do it (the tear was, in fact, glycerine). Cody spent the next 25 years making public appearances and visiting schools on behalf of the movement. "He galvanised so many people who really questioned whether individually they could make a difference," said Powers. A sequel to the commercial was produced in 1975 and a revamped version only last year.

In 1996 *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* caused something of a sensation by disputing Cody's heritage. Based on an interview with his half-sister, baptismal records and other documentation, they asserted that Cody was a second-generation Italian-American from Louisiana. This was denied by Cody and generally disregarded by the public, who had come to revere the actor for his dedication to Indian affairs.

For his efforts on behalf of the American Indian he was presented with a scroll by the City of Los Angeles, and in his own private Moosehead Museum he housed an exhaustive collection of Indian artefacts, costumes, books and paintings.

He wrote several books, including *How Indians Sign Talk* and a 1982 autobiography, *Iron Eyes: my life as a Hollywood Indian*.

TOM VALLANCE

Iron Eyes Cody, actor: born 3 April 1907; married Ga Yeawas (died 1978; one son, and one son deceased); died Los Angeles 4 January 1999.

Marcelle Ségal

THE ENGLISH term "agony aunt" is both discourteous and inexact. No one would ever have thought of applying it to Marcelle Ségal. She was the editor of the "*courrier du coeur*" rubric of the magazine *Elle*, a designation that is more poetical and more precise. When one wanted to avoid the word "editor", then she was known as "*la dame de courrier du coeur*", the lady who looked after the letters written by women explaining their problems and seeking advice, often on emotional matters.

Ségal had taken this responsibility from the foundation of the magazine in 1946 and had continued in this position for more than 40 years, retiring in 1987. She received, on average, some 20 letters a day, publishing only a very few of them tut replying personally to them all. The total number must be staggering.

One of the great interests that surrounded her career concerns the changes that she lived through and which directly affected the position of women in French society. She witnessed nearly four decades in which a high-profile, militant feminism forced legislative reforms through successive governments and during which educational and social developments meant that, whilst the home and the family constituted part of a woman's life, they were no longer considered to provide her ultimate fulfilment.

Thus in its earliest years *Elle*, which aimed at the market of youngish, well-educated, middle-class women, was concerned with advising women on how to organise their domestic lives. Ségal gave advice that would make women more efficient. When women went out to work there was the problem of what to wear; there she recommended the wearing of trousers and pointed out that the same dress could be worn at work and then, with a little adjustment such as adding a piece of jewellery, for going out in the evenings. By the time she retired some 70 per cent of women aged between 25 and 49 worked outside the home.

Ségal always claimed that essentially the problems were the same. "My husband is deceiving me with our maid. What shall I do?" she was asked in the 1950s. "Sack the maid and see to it that the next one you appoint is totally unattractive" was the advice. "My husband is deceiving me with a woman in his office, at least, I think he is" was the querulous complaint. "You should go to his office and find out" was the reply. By the 1980s many women were working in offices. What if the woman was tempted to infidelity? The advice was what one would expect (what about the children?) but Ségal also had a typical comment. "When a man has an affair, everyone knows about it. But when a woman has an affair, it can be kept secret."

Couples living together without being married were talked about as living in sin, living beneath a broomstick, living in the chimney, or having been married in the 21st Paris *arrondissement* (which does not exist) Then the terms describing them beeame very respectable, "*l'union libre*". Later, about the time that Marcelle Ségal retired, people started to speak of "co-habitation".

She would remind tier readers that such unions often led to marriage. And since, in all unions, whether legal or informal, the question of money arises, the woman complains that she does not know for sure bow much the man earns. She was told that she should raise the matter with her man when in the presence of his male friends. He would not like his friends to think that he was earning less than he was. So the woman would learn the truth.

Radical feminist groups disliked *Elle* tiecause it was too upmarket, giving space to the advertisement of expensive foods. And they particularly disliked Marcelle Ségal's column with its emphasis on how to be a good mother and wife, and looking tolerantly on girls and young women who thought wistfully about wedding dresses. But Ségal was not impressed with feminism. Women were simply shouting louder, she said.

Born in 1896, sbe had a diploma in mathematics which she never used. She married and was divorced in 1923. She worked as a secretary in a bank. In 1940 she was transferred to Lyons, but as she was Jewish the Vichy laws prevented her from going into journalism. She joined the Resistance.

Hélène Lazereff was already a friend of hers when, after the Liberation, she joined "the Czarina" in the creation of the weekly *Elle*. All that she wanted, she said, was to be useful and to be read with pleasure.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Morcelle Ségal, journalist: born Paris 15 May 1896; died Paris 28 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

LUCK: On Friday 2 October 1998, to Fiona (née Dickinson) and Gary, a precious daughter, Emily Sarah Dorothy, a sister for Sophie. With eternal thanks to the Harris Birthright Centre, Chelsea and Westminster NICU and East Surrey SCBU. Home at last, 21 December 1998.

DEATHS

CLARINGBULL: Enid Dorothy Phyllis (née Lambert), of Brent Knoll, peacefully, on 4 January in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Sir Frank, and mother to Roger and Margaret. Funeral service, St Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea, Tuesday 12 January at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired for John Grooms Association for Disabled People to Messrs P.J. Harris Funeral Directors, 2 Cross Street, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, telephone 01278 782886.

KOENIGSBERGER: Otto, architect planner, died peacefully 3 January 1999 aged 90 years. Further enquiries to Leverton and Sons, telephone 0181-455 4992.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Geoffrey Bayldon, actor, 75; Dr Tim Black, chief executive, Marie Stopes International, 61; Mr Alan Butcher, cricketer, 45; Miss Hazel Counsell, circuit judge, 68; Mr Hunter Davies, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Tony Elliott, founder and chairman, Time Out Group, 53; Sir Peter Graham QC, former First Parliamentary Counsel, 65; Mr Stuart Hampson, chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 53; The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, 54; Mr Tom Kiernan, rugby player, 60; Mr Ian La Frenais, screenwriter and producer, 62; Mr Malcolm MacDonald, footballer and manager, 49; Miss Manreen MacGlashan, former ambassador to the Holy See, 61; Mr Ross Norman, squash champion, 40; The Visconnt of Oxfuird, a Deputy Speaker, House of Lords, 65; Sir John Page, former Chairman, National Ports Council, 84; Ms Angela Smith MP, 39; Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vanneck, former Lord Mayor of London and MEP, 77; Miss Helen Worth, television actress, 48; Mr Will Wyatt, chief executive, BBC Broadcasting, 57.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pope Gregory XIII, 1502; James Harrington, political theorist, 1611; Joseph Bonaparte, King of Naples, 1768; Eilhard Mitscherlich, chemist, 1794; Millard Fillmore, 13th US President, 1800; Sigismond Fortune François Thalberg, pianist and composer, 1812; Robert Nicoll, poet, 1814; Heinrich von Stephan, politician and pioneer of the UPU, 1831; Titus Charles Constantin, conductor, 1835; St Bernadette of Lourdes (Marie-Bernarde Soubirous), 1844; Carl Laemmle, film producer, founder of Universal Pictures, 1867; Félix-Edouard Justin-Emile Borel, mathematician, 1871; Charles-Pierre Péguy, poet and socialist, 1873; Albert Alick (Al) Bowlly, singer, 1899; Francis-Jean Marcel Poulenc, composer, 1899.

Deaths: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, 1536; Nicholas Hillyarde, first English miniaturist painter, 1619; François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon, priest and writer, 1715; Allan Ramsay, poet, 1758; Daniel Nikolaus Chodowiecki, engraver and painter, 1801; Sir Thomas Lawrence, painter, 1830; John Hookham Frere, writer and poet, 1846; Thomas Waghorn, traveller, 1850; Sophia Louisa Jex-Blake, physician and women's rights champion, 1912; Henry Arthur Jooes, playwright, 1929; Andrei Bely (Boris Nikolayevich Bugaev), novelist and poet, 1934; Nikola Tesla, inventor, 1943; Sir Arthur Keith, anthropologist, 1955; John Berryman, poet, 1972; Alvar Lidell, broadcaster, 1981; Dr Alfred Kastler, physicist, 1984; Trevor Wallace Howard, actor, 1988.

On this day: Glasgow University was founded, 1450; Calais, held by the English, was recaptured by France, 1558; Galileo discovered the four satellites of Jupiter, 1610; Jean-Pierre Blanchard, with Dr John Jeffries, crossed the Channel by balloon from England to France, 1785; the first national election in the US was held, 1789; the London General Omnibus Company started operating, 1857; the first woman was elected as foreman of a jury in Britain, 1921; a picture-by-wire service was established between Britain and Germany, 1930; Princess Juliana of the Netherlands married Prince Bernhard at The Hague, 1937; *The Forsyte Saga* television serialisation began on BBC1, 1967.

Today is the Feast Day of St Aldric, St Canute Lavard, St Lucian of Antioch, St Raymund of Penafort, St Reinold, St Tillo and St Valentine of Rhaetia.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Portraits (i): Velázquez, *Portraits of Philip IV of Spain*", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Moseum: Verity Wilson, "Setting the Scene: history and Henri Cartier-Bresson's photographs of China and Asia", 2pm.
British Mnseum: Xanthe Brook, "Weld-Blundell Drawings: the creation of a fine collection", 11.30am.
National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "William Cobbett and Eoglisti Radicalism", 1.10pm.
Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Portraits in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Ron Baker, Priest-in-Charge, Ewhurst, and Bodiam (Chichester): to be Rector, same benefices.
The Rev Christopher Bishop, Priest-in-Charge, Marnden with Bertden, Rural Dean of Newport and Stansted, and Chaplain, Stansted Airport (Chelmsford): to be also Non-Residentiary Canon, Chelmsford Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Brendan Clover, Priest-in-Charge, St Pancras with St James and Christ Church and St Pancras Holy Cross with St Jude and St Peter (London): to be Residentiary Canon of Bristol Cathedral (Bristol).
The Rev Stephen Cook, NSM Curate, Forest Hill (Honor Oak Parh) St Augustine (Southwark): to be Vicar, Eltham St Barnabas (same diocese).
The Rev Leslie Drake, with permission to officiate (London): to be Team Vicar, Wimbledon with special responsibility for St Matthew (Southwark).
The Rev Michael Gudgeon, with permission to officiate (Chichester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Worthing St Andrew (same diocese).
The Rev Nicholas Helm, Vicar, Sheffield St Bartholomew (Sheffield): to be Bishop's Chaplain, and Adviser in Spirituality (same diocese).
The Rev David Heslop, Chaplain, Course Leader and Tutor in Pastoral Studies, University of Derby (Derby): to be Vicar, Castle Donington and Lockington cum Hemington (Leicester).
The Rev Ian Jennings, Assistant Chaplain, HMP and YOI Doncaster, and NSM Curate, Hackenthorpe (Sheffield): to be Chaplain, HMP and YOI Doncaster, remaining as NSM Curate, Hackenthorpe (same diocese).
The Rev John Neal, Priest-in-Charge, Eltham St John the Baptist (Southwark): to be Vicar, same benefice.
The Rev Gillian Reeves, Assistant Curate, Caterham St Mary the Virgin, St Laurence, St Paul (Southwark): to be Team Vicar, Whyteleafe St Luke (same diocese).
The Rev Tony Rooke, Vicar, Bournemouth St Andrew Bennett Road (Winchester): to be Vicar, Farnhurst (Chichester).
The Rev Wendy Saunders, Assistant Curate, Thamesmead Team (Southwark): to be Priest-in-Charge, Eltham St Saviour (same diocese).
The Rev Dr Jean Wadsworth, Priest-in-Charge, New Eltham All Saints (Southwark): to be Vicar, same benefice.
The Rev Philip Watson, Team Vicar, The Benwell Team (Newcastle): to be Vicar, Stocking Farm St Luke (Leicester).
The Rev David Williams, Priest-in-Charge, Rochford St Andrew, and Rural Dean of Rochford (Chelmsford): to be also Non-Residentiary Canon, Chelmsford Cathedral (same diocese).

RESIGNATIONS and RETIREMENTS
The Rev Michael Clarke, Rector, Highnam, Lassington, Rudford, Tibberton and Taynton (Gloucester): retired 31 December 1998.
The Rev Brian Cranwell, Vicar, Handsworth Woodhouse St James (Sheffield): to retire 31 January.
The Rev Graham Pollitt, Chaplain, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education (Gloucester): resigned 13 October 1998.

APPOINTMENTS

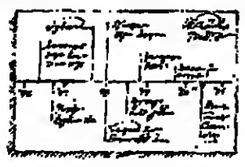
Mr Anthony Layden, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.
Mr Charles James Bowring Kemp, Mr Andrew Gordon McDowall and Mr Michael Paul Yelton, to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

LINCOLN'S INN

The following have been elected Ordinary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn:

Mr Gabriel Moss QC; Mr Edward Bannister QC; Mr Kim Lewison QC; Dr Michael Powers QC; Mr Edward Cousins; Mr Jonathan Crow.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.



HISTORICAL NOTES

SAUL DAVID

Prince's marriage not made in heaven

THE ROYAL marriage in 1795 between the Prince of Wales (later George IV) and his first cousin Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel was never going to last. Not least because the handsome tut dissolute Prince had only agreed to the union on the understanding that the Government would help him to pay off his enormous debts (then running at £630,000, or £30m today). In the event, so much of his married income was put aside by Parliament to service these debts that the residue (£60,000) was actually less than the sum he had been receiving as a bachelor (£78,000).

It hardly tielped that his scheming mistress, Lady Jersey, had deliberately chosen for him a bride with "indelicate manners, indifferent character, and not very inviting appearance, from the hope that disgust for the wife would secure constancy to the mistress". The plan worked admirably. When the betrothed cousins first met, three days before the wedding, the Prince did not bother to conceal his disappointment. Having spoken barely two words to the astonished Princess, he called for a glass of brandy and left the room.

This ungallant reception of his young fiancée – at 26, sbe was, in fact, six years his junior – was largely due to tier exceptionally low standards of personal hygiene. Lord Malmesbury, the courtier sent to escort her from Brunswick, had noticed these deficiencies and had felt it necessary to advise her that the Prince expected "a long and very careful *toilette de propreté*" – which meant, at the very least, washing herself well "all over". But this sound advice had made only a "temporary impression" and she had since returned to tier old ways.

The final straw came curing the farcical wedding night when the Prince discovered that his wife was not a virgin ("there was no appearance of blood," he later told Malmesbury, and "her manners were not those of a novice"). He made love to her just three times, twice that night and once the next, before his repulsion got the better of his sense of duty. A daughter, Charlotte, conceived in the process, died 21 years later in childbirth, leaving him without an beir.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to a successful marriage between the Prince of Wales and Princess Caroline was the fact that he already had a wife. Ten years earlier, he had secretly married Mrs Fitzherbert, a beautiful Roman Catholic widow who had refused to become his mistress. Though valid in the eyes of the Church, the ceremony was in contravention of the 1772 Royal Marriages Act – which stipulated that none of the Royal Family could marry before the age of 25 without the King's consent. Moreover, it would have disqualified the Prince from becoming King, since the Act of Settlement of 1701 prohibited the heir to the throne from marrying a Catholic.

When the Prince married officially in 1795, he was still in love with his first "wife". Five years later, by which time tie had long beeo separated from Princess Caroline, he returned to Mrs Fitzherbert (though he would later abandon her too). But, like our own Princess of Wales, Caroline would not go "quietly". She too became the darling of the people, a propaganda tool with which the press could attack an increasingly hidebound monarchy. She too would die prematurely amidst suspicions – bowever groundless – of foul play.

Saul David is the nuthor of 'Prince of Pleasure: the Prince of Wales and the making of the Regency' (Little, Brown, £22.50)

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

folderol, *n.*

SOME OF us map out the world by reference to its libraries. Each has its particular character and use, something often indefinable but which no other institution can supply. Such as the colonial atmosphere of the Literary and Historical Society of Qnebec, a splendid bnilding, with a mere 300 members, and recently described in the *New York Times* as "not a place that hrooks much *folderol*".

It is a characteristic of the American language not only to produce sassy fresh mintings but to revive such words. The *OED* last records it in 1881, and quotes Sala 20 years earlier as referring to "none of your *fol-de-rol* lavender books, but rigid, unmistakeable shoes". Variously spelt, it meant the meaningless refrain in songs in the 17th century, hence trifles or gewgaws.

THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent 7 January 1999

I feel guilty about my cat's death

Penny's much loved 17-year-old cat, Snoopy, rescued from a motorway as a kitten, was ill, but her vet said he was not ready to die. When he finally collapsed, she took him to the surgery and another vet put him to sleep straightaway. She's now consumed with guilt, remembering the terrible look in the cat's eyes as it was done

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

If you're in guilty mode, and most people are after a death, you can pin your guilt on to almost anything. If Penny hadn't agreed to Snoopy being put to sleep, but waited till her own vet returned, she would have felt guilty that she hadn't had it done earlier. If she'd had it done earlier, she would have felt guilty that she didn't have it done later. If she'd let him die at home, she would have felt guilty on hearing that some cats suffer agonising fits as they die naturally. If he'd disappeared, she would have felt guilty that she hadn't kept him in. If he'd died at some great age, 20 or so, she would have felt guilty that she couldn't have done more to squeeze in another year.

Guilt is an odd emotion, when it comes to death, and people often feel it to get control over the event. It seems less painful to imagine they had some control than to realise that death just comes out of the blue and swipes our loved ones at random.

OK, she gave the go-ahead for Snoopy to be put to sleep. But he would have died anyway very soon, and compared to 17 years of a blissfully happy life with Penny, what difference does a day or two make – except, perhaps, that he was probably spared fear and pain in his last hours?

Research into the relationship between owners and pets shows that the owners of rescued pets can feel much worse when their pets die than the owners of pets that have been bought or given to them. The rescuing makes people feel far more responsible for their animals' lives. They are aware that an animal has been abandoned once, and they never want to do the same to it themselves. They feel a bit like gods. No doubt Penny feels that if she hadn't taken Snoopy in, he would have died on the motorway, when in fact he might have led a jolly life as a wild cat, or been adopted by another, equally nice person.

Penny not only did right by having Snoopy put down, if she was advised to; she would, in fact, have done wrong to refuse. Vets do not bump animals off lightly.

Five years ago I took a wretched-looking skinny stray, humming with fleas and knotted fur, to my vet and asked for it to be put down, and he refused, saying there was absolutely no reason. For all we knew, he said, he enjoyed being a mucky old hobo, a Jack Kerouac of the cat world. When a vet says an animal should be put down, be means it.

Three things Penny should consider. Had Snoopy been a human and she a cat, would Snoopy have loved her enough to have done the same thing for her? And has she considered that the suffering she is feeling is what Snoopy would have endured had he been allowed to live any longer? It is agonising suffering as she does.

But perhaps it is better and more loving that she should suffer, rather than Snoopy. Finally, might not adopting another rescued cat be a suitable memorial to such a lovely friend? If this isn't anthropomorphising too much, might it not be what Snoopy would have wanted?

DILEMMAS
WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

You did nothing wrong
I write as a retired veterinary surgeon who must have put down thousands of cats in 30 years of practice, one of the last being our own much loved elderly Tom who had adopted us as a six-week-old kitten.

I am certain that Penny need not feel any guilt whatsoever at agreeing to having Snoopy put to sleep; cats do not have the same outlook on life that we have, and human ethics do not enter into their scheme of things. For instance, I am sure that Snoopy would have had no qualms over chasing and killing a mouse for fun and exercise.

Vets, in common with doctors, do differ fundamentally in their attitude to euthanasia but, having said that, I am sure that Penny will take heart, stop crying and sleep easy in the recall of all those happy times that Snoopy gave her.
JOHN DOUCH
Wellingborough, Northants

The cat had a happy life
Please don't punish yourself over the death of your little cat. For many years I have been an RSPCA auxiliary and know the misery and suffering of abandoned cats. You gave Snoopy 17 years of happiness – many cats would wish for such luck. Remember you gave Snoopy the best of all gifts, a happy life.
S BANHAM
Harrow, Middlesex

Guilt follows bereavement
Penny has my heartfelt sympathy. I too recently lost my darling cat. We all feel guilt when we lose someone we love. It is a part of loving, and losing. But not to know the fate of a cat – that is true anguish.
ELIZABETH A PARRY
Warwickshire

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
We are close friends with a couple, and familiar uncle and aunt figures to their children. I know that my friend, their father, believes strongly that boys as well as girls should get hugs and kisses from their male elders. When we meet, my wife kisses the whole family. I kiss his wife, son and daughter, but leave him out in the cold, as it were, with a handshake, though I regard him no less warmly. What gesture of affection could I properly extend to my friend without embarrassing either of us and making things worse?
Yours sincerely, Jon

Anyone whose advice is quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora
Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk – giving a postal address for the bouquet

POETIC LICENCE

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD'S ENGAGEMENT TO SOPHIE RHYS-JONES BY MARTIN NEWELL

Congratulations are there sir?
Oh this is noble, this is good.
And decent, if not overdue
A long engagement? This is true

But never mind sir, nearer sound
Those carillons of summer bells
When sun will bed down in the lane
With hawthorn bloom for counterpane

To marry in your maytime sir
Is prudent, dignified, polite
And Berkshire sir, is very nice
Its lychgates made for throwing rice

Your Mother? Oh, I'm sure she's thrilled
Your father? Ah well he's your dad
Laconic, gruff, as is his way
But privately relieved they'd say

And your intended, where she walks
May flowers spring up in her steps
A charming girl sir, made for love
For she is sanguine and above

Demure, yet still of sturdy stock
A gemstone hewn from humbler rock
Long-polished sir, we must allow
We hope she's cleared for service now

Then open-mouthed with joy may we
From small provincial chairs, stretch out
Twelfth-Night now past, the TV on
And yawning winter not yet gone

To celebrate, the duck fragments
The cork flies out, the cherry pops
The candle flares, the levee breaks
The swans emerge, the kraken wakes

And Mother Nature then, herself
As if she had announced the news
Blows breath of springtime from her mouth
(At least, in some parts of the south)

Five years is long to court and spark
A comely fire sir, now awaits
So many beacons round about
Began ablaze but sputtered out

But even if you get it right
One out of four's acceptable
It's we who pay and we who wait
To see such coals die in the grate

So quietly does it, heads down now
Be sure you don't let down the firm
It's mostly fools and railway loos
Become engaged – but they're not news

Racial pride and prejudice

Nick Griffin is the frighteningly plausible new front for the British National Party. Just don't call him a Nazi. By Nick Ryan and Nick Lowles

He is the very image of the country squire. There's the blazer and tie, the hint of distinguishing grey and an undisguised arrogance. Striding up and welcoming me as "mate", he appears cultured, charming and urbane.

There is little to suggest he is anything but what he seems. Nothing the families sitting about us would notice, too polite to register the odd comments about race, betrayal and Jewish conspiracies.

Yet later this year, Nick Griffin, 40, will spearhead the biggest push the far right has attempted in Britain. Waiting in the wings to take over leadership of the extremist British National Party (BNP), Griffin is looking forward to next June's European elections with relish.

"If we managed to produce one MEP," he says animatedly, "if you think of the fuss Derek Beackon [the BNP's first and only councillor] caused with one council seat on the Isle of Dogs, one MEP would be spectacular – an historical earthquake."

Not since council elections in Millwall in 1993, which led to Beackon's success, has the BNP stood a chance of upsetting the status quo. These could be the first nationwide elections to be held under proportional representation, which usually favours smaller parties. And for Griffin, the spectre of a single electoral success, and even participation in the electoral process – with the TV broadcasts and promotions which come with it – is a Holy Grail.

If his plans are realised, 15 million Britons could receive BNP publicity material, as part of a free mail-out available to every party. They will be targeting "more graduates and small businesses", the kind of people that may once have voted for the Tory Party right wing. Their inspiration is France's Front National which, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has some 15 per cent of the vote.

Griffin's quiet changes have begun to take shape gradually. British farmers started reading a new paper at rural protest marches. *The British Countryman* talked their language, of a "silent majority" fighting back to defend British agriculture. It supported the smallholders and spoke out against the bosses supposedly running the National Farmers' Union and the governments which had let them down over BSE.

"Some of the farmers are suicidal," he says, in his soft, educated tones. "They can see no hope and there's nothing they can do to regain some self-respect." He pauses for effect. "But we can provide that."

Griffin: critics say he's 'repackaging racism' *Newsteam*

It isn't just farmers Griffin has been looking towards. Mothers on estates suddenly found campaigns springing up to sweep out paedophiles, and he also tried to forge an unlikely alliance with anti-road protesters. This was all part of Griffin's campaign to build up the BNP's profile and prepare the party for being "acceptable and electable".

However, beneath the talk of modernisation, Griffin is not all he seems. This is a man for whom the past will not disappear. While violence was happening on the streets of Millwall, he wrote about creating a strong political organisation with the ability to back itself with "well-directed boots and fists". He wrote: "When the crunch comes power is the product of force and will, not rational debate." Hardly the talk of a moderniser aiming for electoral respectability.

This is also the man who, as Vice-Chairman of the National Front, was a guest of Colonel Gaddafi – just after the American bombing of Tripoli (and just before Libya supplied arms to the IRA). The same man who tried to link up with Louis Farrakhan's militant black Islamic movement, The Nation of Islam – yet who tells me that Islam is a violent religion, bent on taking over this country, which must be resisted.

But Griffin is a man for whom the inconvenient past does not stand in the way of political ambition. "There were crazy periods in my past," he says. "But I hope I've learned from my mistakes." Such as? "Allowing my youthful enthusiasm for perfect ideas to run far beyond what's politically possible." The tone is smug, final.

Yet this is the man who last year wrote "Who are the Mindbenders?", about Jewish figures dominating the media; who associates with Holocaust deniers; believes the number of deaths in custody shows that black people are "more susceptible to being strangled than whites"; claims homosexuality is "fundamentally unhealthy" and would withdraw pension rights for gays.

Because these opinions are "vote losers", he says, they won't be presented to the public come election time. For example, the BNP's fundamental and most contentious policy is compulsory repatriation for non-whites. Griffin says he privately agrees with this line, but that he recognises it was one of the main obstacles to becoming "acceptable and electable". So the policy looks set to be diluted or even temporarily dropped for the elections.

To Gerry Gable, editor of the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, Griffin is the classic wolf in sheep's clothing: "He may bang on about the farmers, but there are any number of parties out there representing such interests.

"What makes the BNP different is its uncompromising stance on racial nationalism.

"What he's now trying to do is find a way of repackaging the same racist ideas in more respectable form."

Griffin is characteristically confident: "The BNP is going to win Euro seats and you'll see BNP councillors established in local areas. We've got potential mass support in every part of the country."

And in a final parting shot, he adds: "You can pretend the BNP is Nazi, but when thousands of people continue to vote for it, you won't be able to label all of them as neo-Nazis. It just won't be practical."

FILM

Play for yesterday

THE BIG PICTURES

ANTHONY QUINN

LITTLE VOICE (15)
DIRECTOR: MARK HERMAN
STARRING: JANE HORROCKS, MICHAEL CAINE, EWAN McGREGOR
97 MINS

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)
DIRECTOR: HOWARD HAWKS
STARRING: HUMPHREY BOGART, LAUREN BACALL
100 MINS

In *Little Voice*, adapted by Mark Herman from Jim Cartwright's West End stage hit, Jane Horrocks delivers a note-perfect repertoire of celebrity vocal impersonations. Close your eyes and you seem to hear the voices of Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Marlene Dietrich; yet the sound is all the work of the remarkable Horrocks, whose slender frame belies the mighty vocal powers she exercises here. She plays LV – Little Voice – a retiring northern lass who honours the memory of her dear departed dad by cherishing his favourite diva records and refusing to speak to her loud, sluttish mother, Mari (Brenda Blethyn). Then Mari's latest flame, a sleazeball agent named Ray (Michael Caine), overhears LV's bravura imitations and swiftly battens on her as his ticket to the big time.

Herman revisits the seam of bluff northern humour he mined in *Brassed Off*, and brings along his star, Ewan McGregor, to play a pigeon fancier who shyly courts LV. McGregor's role didn't exist in the play, and his presence – albeit dressed down in nerdy anorak and specs – is plainly an attempt to juice up the proceedings. Try as they might, however, the film-makers can't make *Little Voice* any less dowdy and cramped than it looked on stage. This is drama still smeared with greasepaint, and chock-full of exits and entrances that scream theatre matinee. Twenty years ago, it would have made a so-so *Play For Today*; now it's touted as a great British film contender.

Horrocks is terrific when she's belting out the songs, but in repose her moon calf eyes and open mouth are too pathetic. Her northern little-me-ism can pall, and she'll have to work hard if she's not to become her generation's Julie Walters. At least she doesn't unbalance the film in the way the stupefying awfulness of Brenda Blethyn's performance does – next to her caricatured harridan, the Fat Slags from *Viz* seem a model of decorum. Caine and Jim Broadbent fare better, and make their greasy-haired opportunism oddly attractive: Caine has fun snarling out a drunken, rancorous "It's Over", silencing a nightclub audience and sealing his showbiz career at a stroke. Yet their efforts, welcome as they are, have no greater purchase on truth than anything else in this sentimental folk opera.

There's also some memorable singing in *To Have and Have Not* (1945), courtesy of the 19-year-old Lauren Bacall: it was actually the voice of the young Andy Williams, but the way Bacall slouches at the piano while Hoagy Carmichael accompanies her on "How Little We Know" tells you all you need to know about being a star – was there ever a more self-assured début in the Forties? Spotted by Howard Hawks's wife on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar* in 1943, Bacall was taken up by Hawks, trained to deepen her voice and cast opposite Humphrey Bogart in this loose adaptation of a Hemingway story. Set in Martinique just prior to US involvement in the Second World War, Bogart's a seen-it-all boat captain who refuses to be drawn into the conflict between the ascendant Vichy government and the Free French. Until, that is, he crosses paths with Bacall's insolent cat-woman (named Slim, after Mrs Hawks), who has the nerve to ask him (Bogart!) if he knows how to whistle.

The plot is essentially a re-run of *Casablanca*. There's the tropical setting, drowsy with corruption; there's the French patriot and his wife who need to get the hell out; there's the cynical American loner who insists on non-alignment but then finds his decency getting the better of him; there's even the bar-room pianist, though no equivalent of "As Time Goes By". The tone of *To Have and Have Not* is altogether lighter, jauntier: the poignancy of unfulfilled love that haunted *Casablanca* is here replaced by the spectacle of a hard-bitten individualist at last finding a woman who's a match for him, though they keep each other at arm's length for most of the film. When Bacall tells Bogart she's been hired by the café proprietor to sing, he shrugs: "Sing? Well, it's his place." Later, she watches him carry an unconscious woman to a bed: "What are you trying to do – guess her weight?" Miaow! While it's Bacall's feline sexiness that transforms a dull drama into a romantic comedy, Bogart is tolerably wonderful, too, and looks more relaxed than usual. He's an enduring marvel of grace under pressure: as Kenneth Tynan wrote: "I don't think we can say Bogart was a great actor, but he remained, to the end, a great *behaver*." Like the moment here when a Vichy thug demands to know his nationality. "Eskimo," he replies, unblinking.

A sentimental folk opera: Michael Caine and Jane Horrocks in 'Little Voice'

ALSO SHOWING

PSYCHO GUS VAN SANT (18) ■ **THE SIEGE** EDWARD ZWICK (15) ■ **π** DARREN ARONOFSKY (15) ■ **ANGEL DUST** SOGO ISHII (N/C)

GUS VAN Sant's *Psycho* is not a remake of Hitchcock's 1960 classic, but a reproduction. The distinction is significant, because a remake at least allows the possibility of differences in tone, perspective or interpretation, whereas a reproduction is bounded by its fidelity to the original. Van Sant's scene-by-scene copy exists in the same relation as a replica print to an old master. It's well made, it may even sell, but it remains basically unsatisfying.

Hitchcock's film presents Van Sant with two distinct problems, in that it is both a one-off and absolutely part of its time. The casting of Anthony Perkins in the original was key, and Vince Vaughn, great in *Swingers*, is too much the strapping country boy to play a disturbed loner like Norman Bates. Anne Heche is more comfortable in the Marion Crane role, yet she also has the most difficult job of all: acting like someone who knows nothing of the iconic world of *Psycho*. Hitchcock's film has colonised a patch of our dream life, and of our movie-fed language – it seems impossible that Heche doesn't realise that a) you don't stop anywhere called the Bates Motel, b) you don't ask Norman about his mother, and c) you certainly do not step into that shower.

Saul Bass's austere credits and Bernard Herrmann's ominously busy violins can be replicated with impunity, but cleaving to Joseph Stefano's original screenplay lands the 1999 version in terrible trouble. Can anyone nowadays utter the words "A boy's best friend is his mother", as Norman does to Marion, and not risk being jeered out of the room? At the end, the passage of nearly 40 years becomes apparent when the doctor examining Norman explains to the cast in painfully prolix detail what's happened in Norman's mind – a speech reproduced verbatim from the 1960 script. No doctor nowadays would make the concept of schizophrenia sound quite so unusual, indeed exotic. When Van Sant does try to update – Norman, eye against a peephole, masturbates as he watches Marion undressing – it feels plausible but over-explicit.

Hitchcock fans can relax, because nothing can diminish his *Psycho*. This version isn't a sacrilege – it's just pointless.

The Siege is a slam-bang action thriller about terrorism that's intended to make American blood run cold. Islamic militants have infiltrated New York. Denzel Washington heads an FBI task force to smoke them out, backed up by a CIA operative (Annette Bening) who has contacts with the terrorists. Both are helpless to prevent the bombing of a Brooklyn bus and a first-night theatre crowd on Broadway. Once a suicide bomber takes out the FBI's headquarters at One Federal Plaza, it's a case of cometh the hour, cometh the man. It's Bruce Willis, of course, playing a hawkish army general who declares martial law on the city. Tanks roll down the streets, Brooklyn is sealed off and hundreds of young Arab-American males are herded into makeshift detention centres.

The director, Edward Zwick, knows what incendiary stuff he has on his hands, and occasionally digresses to pour oil on the troubled waters: he casts Tony Shalhoub as an Arab-American FBI agent whose son is interned during the round-ups, and raises the spectre of US guilt over CIA training of Islamic terrorists. But this is overwhelmed by the hysteria of the film's central premiss: there are strangers among us who would bomb our homes and kill our children. *The Siege* made certain Arab-American groups hot under the collar on its US release in November, and it's not hard to see why. The movie's unspoken feeling is that, in the land of the free, some are still freer than others.

Darren Aronofsky's directorial debut, *π*, sounds like a contradiction in terms: a thriller about mathematics. Yet the 29-year-old has parlayed this unpromising subject into something genuinely offbeat and original. A reclusive maths prodigy, Max Cohen (Sean Gullette), is on the cusp of a momentous discovery. Based on his credo that everything can be represented and understood through numbers, Max thinks he can discern a pattern in the fluctuations of the stock market, though he has enemies from within and without. Plagued by migraines, he is also persecuted by a Wall Street syndicate and a group of Hasidic greybeards who believe he has unlocked the secret name of God.

Shot in high-contrast black and white, the film keeps us guessing as it burrows deeper into Max's psyche: is he getting closer to the truth, or to a complete mental crack-up? Aronofsky has a fine eye for detail, suggesting patterns of correspondence in the whorls of a seashell, the leaves on a tree, even the cream in a cup of coffee. I'm not sure whether his film makes any sense at all, but it's at least brave enough to take an audience's intelligence for granted – an achievement in itself nowadays.

There's not much coherence to be found in *Angel Dust*, a Japanese thriller in which a beautiful analyst (Kaho Minami) is seconded to the Tokyo police force, baffled by a series of rush-hour murders on the underground. The victims are all young women, the method is a lethal injection, and the chief suspect is a psychiatrist who specialises in deprogramming brainwashed cult loonies. Sounds intriguing, for sure, but director Sogo Ishii muddies an already nebulous plot with dream sequences and gender ambiguities.

AQ

All films are on general release from tomorrow.
Adam Mars-Jones writes about remakes on page 10

RUSHES

AS IF the Australian shoot for Terrence "Chucklemeister" Malick's forthcoming Second World War flick *The Thin Red Line* weren't gruelling enough, spare a thought for the crew and cast members who had to share a production with those wacky japesters Woody Harrelson and Sean Penn. The pair took it upon themselves to provide some comic relief with a series of practical jokes. Harrelson kicked off the gags by lining Penn's helmet with freshly chewed gum.

Penn's frankly bizarre retaliation was to have a couple of thousand "Woody Harrelson Day" posters printed up, inviting locals to a day in celebration of the actor. Doubtless to Sean's amusement, a few even turned up. Within hours, Harrelson's rapier wit had dreamt up a riposte. Penn received a night-time phone call from Nick Nolte, a fellow co-star, who told him that he was banged up in a local jail and needed to be bailed out. Penn arrived at the jail to see Nolte behind bars, crying "Help me!" In a particularly inspired flourish. A "prison guard" then pretended to shoot Nolte's "cell mate". How they must have laughed!

Penn's revenge proved to be equally subtle. On the way back from the "jail", he quietly instructed the driver to take a detour before throwing Harrelson out of the car and cheerily telling him to find his own way home.

THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent 7 January 1999

The real thing... only more so

If there's one thing we know about film it's that remakes are naff. Nonsense. Remakes are cinema in its pomp. By Adam Mars-Jones

Remake is close to being a dirty word. It represents everything uncreative and mechanical about mainstream cinema. 'hether or not Hollywood made the 'iginal, it's Hollywood that makes :e remake – or else television must ınfess to being the guilty party. Reake is to sequel as evil twin is to ɔstreperous younger sibling.

A dynamic film culture produces 'iginal projects, not remakes, or at's what we'd like to think. Like eve Martin and Bernadette Peters' ıncing in front of oversized moving ıages of Fred and Ginger, in the ollywood remake of *Pennies From eaven*, the actors in remakes are ccessarily overshadowed by those ey set out to match. On the plan-

Remake, it's Richard Gere ho gets the call to stand in for both an-Paul Belmondo (in *Breathss*) and Gérard Depardieu ı *Sommersby*).

So it may be perverse to argue at the remake is film's most disıctive formal contribution to art. All e cinematic genres, from the eepie to the horror film, derive ɔm literature or the theatre. Even e average length of a feature film modelled on theatrical preceent, though it's a rare movie ranagh's *Hamlet* being a recent ample) that allows its audience an terval for the release of pent-up ater. Only the short is original to nema as a genre, not an imitation the short story or the theatrical ıtr'acte, but a length stipulated, ıce upon a time, by the duration of reel of film.

In terms of prestige, the remake a film is almost the opposite of a w production of a play. A play can't ırvive in the repertory without ing refashioned with new ideas, w designs, new people – and we e happy to class those novelties as ansfusions rather than treasons. e very word "revival" puts this acity on the side of the angels, and e people involved in it become a ltural crash team, shouting lear!" as they apply the defibriltor pads to the inert torso of iestley or Rattigan.

To remake a film, though, is to be grave-robber, cobbling together an holy patchwork of body parts in itation of a seamless original. A make must be imagined in spiral torment, unable to bear the knowledge of its own ugliness. The director of a new production of a play shows that he loves it; directing a remake is proof that you despise, or underestimate, the original.

Old enough to be her father: Anne Heche in the new version of 'Psycho' faced by the original killer, Anthony Perkins *Photomontage: Himesh Patel*

Whenever there is news of an impending remake, the cry goes up: "But it's so unnecessary! Why do they have to do that?" – as if being unnecessary wasn't a precondition for something to be considered art. The underlying reason is the way films seem to stand outside time, needing no fresh outpouring of attention to guarantee immortality. The wizened James Cagney of *Ragtime* (1981) doesn't replace the Cagney of *Public Enemy* (1931), any more than the aged Wendy Hiller of *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974) usurps her fresh presence in *I Know Where I'm Going!* (1945).

So why does a remake, with no likelihood of replacing the original, constitute a threat to it? The boot is on the other foot, if anything, as the studio behind the Ingrid Bergman *Gaslight* (1944) understood, when they tried to destroy all copies of the earlier version with Diana Wynyard. Do we really think that actors in a remake are engaged in a life or death struggle with their predecessors, from which only one can walk away, so that Robert De Niro can't make an impression in Branagh's 1994 remake of *Frankenstein* except at Boris Karloff's expense?

But in any case, the timelessness of movies is a convention, is spurious. Not only does the physical fabric of films deteriorate, as Martin Scorsese has pointed out more indefatigably than anybody, so that movies need constant cosmetic surgery to maintain their looks, but the cultural context of films changes also. A contemporary audience seeing a classic film for the first time is likely to be blasé, in exact proportion to the breadth of its influence – so that Godard's original *Breathless* (1959), say, precisely because its innovations have been so fully absorbed, can look more dated than a much older film in a less familiar genre; for instance, Murnau's *Sunrise* (1927). No sense organ reaches surfeit-saturation more quickly than the eye. Despite the pious assumptions, the shower scene from *Psycho* can no more have the same effect today as it did on its original audiences, than footage of a train coming right towards camera will have people running for the exits.

All this is a way of saying that Gus Van Sant's shot-for-shot re-enactment of the 1960 classic, released this week, takes the original seriously, and is an act of questioning love. Normally we praise a remake for adding something to the original premise – as Nora Ephron's new *You Have Mail* starts from a much more plausible basis for sustained anonymous communication, e-mail, than its 1940 source picture, *The Shop Around the Corner*. But with the new *Psycho* the additions are few and far between. The rumour that Marion Crane's sister Lila was to be played as a lesbian turns out to mean that Julianne Moore wears a backpack, has a long stride, and doesn't appreciate the possessive body language of male strangers. If that's what makes a lesbian, there's a lot of them about.

The decision to film in colour is the one element that threatens the film's almost fetishistic integrity (Van Sant filmed for the same number of days as Hitchcock, and achieved an equal running time). In the shower sequence, for instance, the celebrated and nihilistic visual correspondence between a newly dead eye and a plughole only exists in black and white. Van Sant's retention of it in his montage is meaninglessly faithful, though he compensates with a stunningly effective image of his own, a huge close-up of a pupil abruptly dilating.

Van Sant's training was as a painter (and the new film's shower curtain, with its opaque fractals, makes the knife-wielding figure that looms through it look like a murderous Braque). But perhaps at some stage he read Borges' famous piece of philosophical mischief, the story "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote", about a man who rewrites Cervantes' novel word for word, and is held up as having accomplished the greater task.

If so, he did well not to share this high-art precedent with the people at Universal who let so much money ride on his project. The sum of money stolen in the original *Psycho* was $40,000, and Hitchcock's film cost relatively few multiples of that amount to make. In Van Sant's film, the money has swollen to $400,000, but has dwindled to an insignificant fraction of the budget.

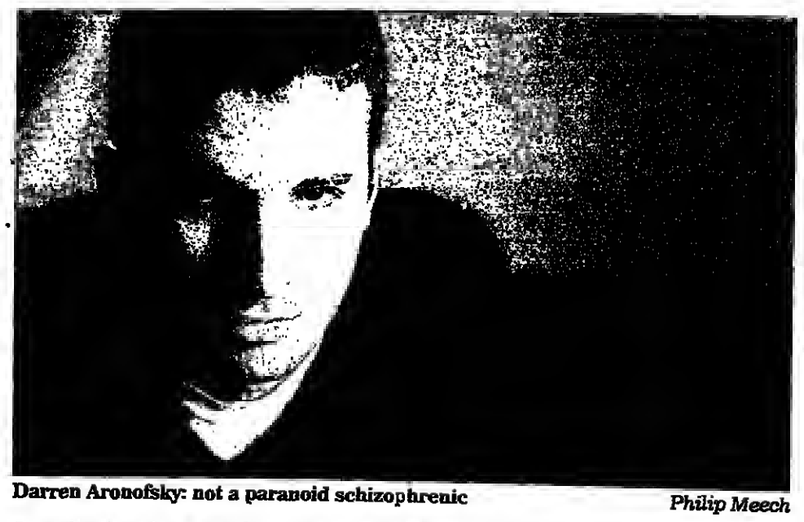
If Van Sant was also thinking of the Japanese tradition of preserving monuments, not by trying to make them timeproof, as we do in the West, but by tearing them down and rebuilding them every few decades, he was no less wise to keep quiet about it while he made his pitch. What secured the film its go-ahead must have been the sheer disreputability of remakes in general. Given the prevailing assumptions about remakes, it's hard to blame the people who gave the green light for not noticing that a faithful copy of a box-office smash could be a radical experiment in disguise.

Space suit white and vampire black

Paranoia minus *The X-Files* plus tuna sandwiches equals π. By Roger Clarke

HOLLYWOOD LOVES its wunderkind directors, especially when they don't require too much taming. The self-confessed "narrative junkie" and "sci-fi guy", 29-year-old Darren Aronofsky, is currently wowing the stogie-smoking bosses of Tinseltown with his ultra-low-budget, Philip K Dick-style sci-fi film π. Suddenly Ridley Scott wants to produce him. Studios are forming long queues to sign him up. Why? π is making a percentage return that makes their dumb animatronic monsters, such as *Godzilla*, look as small as the people they usually mega-budget on.

Aronofsky's début feature first drew attention in last year's Sundance Festival, where he won a director's prize. π is a paranoid thriller, all blinding space suit white and glossy vampire black, which tells the story of a reclusive Brooklyn maths genius, Maximilian Cohen, who uses a home-made computer to search for a super-advanced mathematical key that can predict stock market movements. Cue nasty corporation interest and the approach of a mysterious Jewish sect...



Darren Aronofsky: not a paranoid schizophrenic *Philip Meech*

Aronofsky, lean and darkly ascetic-looking in the flesh (intensive Manhatten yoga sessions and a largely vegetarian diet), plays down the kooky rumours to do with his running away from a plastics factory in a kibbutz in Israel shortly after leaving high school. In Jerusalem, it is whispered, he was pounced on by members of a weird Hasidic sect preoccupied with the numerical significance of the Hebrew language. Didn't they try to convert him?

"That's all exaggerated and overblown," he says. He met some cabbalists in Jerusalem, but that was about it. Though raised in a mildly conservative Jewish household, he does not practise the Jewish faith. The Jerusalem experience was almost incidental to the creation of Aronofsky's film and he tells me that the cabbala element was developed late in the process. "One day I saw the Hasim on the street and just thought they'd look great in black and white," he confesses.

And it was originally an ancient Greek philosopher's modern disciple who was going to make it into π. A general fascination with Pythagoras as a "lost messiah" piqued a wider interest in number mysticism.

However, he had considerable Jewish help towards making the movie: 300 of his friends and neighbours chipped in $100 each (£62) towards the $60,000 budget; the Hasidic Jewish actor (and soi-disant "kosher ham") Izzi Lifschutz secured more than $10,000-worth of kosher food by barter to feed the crew, and his mom, dad and relatives helped with walk-on roles and catering. "My mom," says Aronofsky, fleetingly like the Cohen character in the movie, "made me tuna sandwiches when I was really down and talking about driving off the Williamsburg Bridge."

π has been called wildly original, but Aronofsky himself wisely disputes this. "I don't believe in original," he says, "and even have problems with the idea of copyright, though I accept that people have to get paid for what they do."

Surely this is a kind of anti-paranoia observatioo? Does he agree that paranoia is one of the great American exports of the late 20th century?

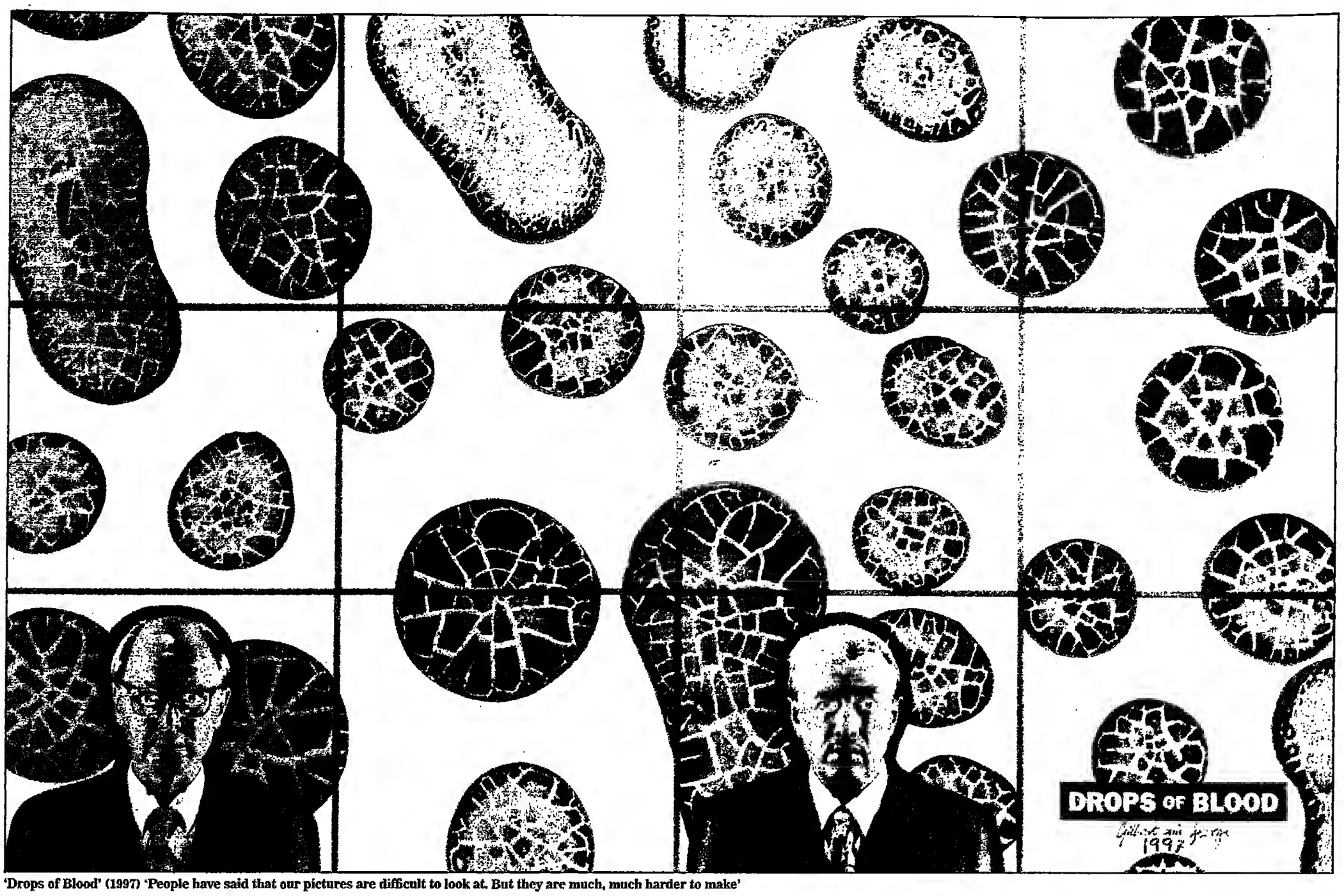
"I think after Oliver Stone's *JFK*, paranoia entered popular culture, yes. But after all, in screeowriting school they teach you that everything has to revert back to the main character all the time, which is exactly what paranoid schizophrenics think."

Most critics have mentioned Lynch's *Eraserhead* and *The X-Files* as influences on π, though Aronofsky himself abhors both comparisons. *Eraserhead* is by intention static, he says, whereas π is a "boiled-down three-act thriller". And as for *The X Files*, he hates them. "I don't watch TV because I'll get addicted to it in days, but I did see the *X-Files* movie and it was horrendous. I had no clue what the fuck was going on, it just didn't tie together, whereas in reality these paranoids are exquisite in the detail with which they make everything link." So no comparison with his beloved *Twilight Zone* episodes? "No way!"

As for the young actors who want cred by being in such movies (he is now being inundated with actors wanting to work with him), he is also wary. "A lot of them are little more than cyborgs who want to be on the cover of *Vanity Fair* looking pretty. Then they want to do a De Niro and go for really crazy hardball parts. But when it comes down to it..."

He makes a face. Hollywood's taming process, it would seem, has a way to go.

Anthony Quinn reviews π on page 9



'Drops of Blood' (1997) 'People have said that our pictures are difficult to look at. But they are much, much harder to make'

Gilbert & George do Naples

Their art has succeeded in offending everybody. Well, nearly. One city has taken the odd couple in its stride. By Michael Bracewell

It was a damp, mild night, early in December last year, and the rising clamour of voices at the private view of Gilbert & George's *New Testamental Pictures* in the Museo di Capodimonte, in Naples, had just been jerked to instant silence by what sounded like – and what turned out, in fact, to be – a high-pitched male scream accompanied by the thump of someone landing rather heavily, having just jumped several feet into the air.

Moving as one through the record-breaking crowds, half-a-dozen camera crews, ravenous for outrage, swung around to capture the source of the incident – which turned out to be two young Italian artists who had just created a performance piece directly in front of Gilbert & George, entitled *Gigolo*.

Whether *Gigolo* was an artistic tribute to Gilbert & George, or some form of protest at either the artists, the gallery, or both, was unclear. But in the momentary hush that had followed *Gigolo*'s blood-curdling howl and thud of hefty boots on varnished parquet, you could hear, quite distinctly, the courteous warmth of George's voice – a virtual parody of Britishness – as he answered ooe performance with another: "Thank you very much," he said, in the polite tones of a rather grand relation receiving a box of After Eights as a Christmas present, "That was very nice." And Gilbert, smiling, agreed.

In order to understand the cultural significance of the Museo di Capodimonte, and the matching significance of such an institutioo hosting a major exhibition by Gilbert & George, you have to imagine London's Natiooal Gallery housed in Hampton Court and situated in a port city such as Liverpool or Newcastle. For the

> *The sheer scale of Gilbert & George's fame is not to be underestimated*

next few months, *The New Testamental Pictures* by Gilbert & George, with their titles like punk novellas – *Shit On Us, Spunkland, Piss Heads* – will be exhibited beside an Italian national collection of Renaissance treasures, in a former royal palace that commands a view of a depressed but defiantly beautiful coastal city.

"But we have always loved Naples very much, since we first exhibited here at Lucio Amelio's gallery in the Seventies," says George; "It's extremely exotic," says Gilbert, with a winning, if enigmatic, grin. "But do you know, this is the first time we have exhibited in a museum and not been asked to withdraw at least one of the pictures. It's because Naples is a port, and they are used to everything here. They won't be shocked. They are open to all kinds of ideas."

Standing side by side at their private view, receiving with unwavering smiles and deferential half-bows a steady stream of slightly hesitant but increasingly devoted well-wishers, Gilbert & George look as though they have just stepped down from one of their pictures. Which, in many ways, they have. For a little more than 30 years, since they first donned their armour of matching suits, they have maintained their public and artistic image in an epic of self-portraiture. Over the past two years, in their "Fundamental" and "Testamental" series of pictures – which have yet to be seeo in Britain – they have posed, naked or besuited, against magnified images of their own bodily essences of blood, sperm, sweat, urine and faeces, in the photographed structures of which they claim to see the maps and mystical calligraphy of their own existence and human destiny. They are probably the only artists who have literally put their "everything" into their own work. "People have said that our pictures are difficult to look at," says George. "But they are much, much harder to make."

And because of the uncompromising imagery in their pictures, which has been construed by some critics to offeod just about everybody, Gilbert & George have sometimes been described as reactionary monsters. "But when people come looking for the bodies of murdered teenage boys," says George, "we tell them that they may dig anywhere in the garden – providing that they doo't dig in that corner over there!"

If the test of modern celebrity is the speed and efficiency with which you enter the mainstream of popular culture, theo the sheer scale of Gilbert & George's fame is not to be underestimated. The usually sedate world of the *Antiques Roadshow* was thrown into momentary disarray when someone popped up with an extremely rare work by George, made prior to his meeting with Gilbert. The television expert designated to assess the all-important insurance value of the piece had to inch his way around not only the precise figure, but also the reasoos why this George person has become so important. Explaining the significance of subsequeot works by Gilbert & George, with titles such as *Blood on Spunk* and *Shit on Spit*, to an audience primed to appreciate the curves of a Chippendale commode, proved testing. Similarly, Gilbert & George have been the subject of a lengthy sketch by French and Saunders, while their performance oo *The Last Resort*, dancing to "Bend It Shake It", is one of the most requested repeats from the show. More recently, Virgin Records' new year sale has been advertised with window-display posters based oo both the format and the magnified images of blood used by Gilbert & George in their "Fundamentals" pictures; even the slogan "Bloody Big Sale" is based directly – right down to the typography – on Gilbert & George's iconic title, *Bloody Life*. Gilbert & George, as a cultural concept, uphold the

> *Their performance on 'The Last Resort', dancing to 'Bend It Shake It', is a much-requested repeat*

definition that Brian Eno once gave of pop music: "It's about creating imaginary worlds, and inviting people to join them."

At precisely 8pm, with Italian functionaries' uncompromising oeed to close oo time, the gallery attendants began to usher the crowds down the hroad flights of imperial stairs which led to the darkoess of the surrounding park. And after a slow procession – suitably regal, but always ready to pause for an informal snapshot, Gilbert & George left the huilding. "The thing about Gilbert & George," said ooe of their few close acquaintances, "which is almost as important as their art – and their art is very important indeed – is that they have survived as a couple. They are even preparing for their deaths, I think, and that is a proof of some immense depth to what they are to one another."

Later, at a dinner held in their bonour at a restaurant on the waterfront overlooking the Bay of Naples, Gilbert & George sat side by side, as always, dispensing a warmth and cheerfulness that seemed to inspire the entire restaurant of bemused Italian families and distracted lovers. Around midnight, they rose to sing "Happy Birthday" for one of their guests, conducting the crowd with their upheld glasses of wine. In some magical way, the dinner itself had become a performance – a happening. Finally, a rumour circulated that an exhibition by Gilbert & George might be the opening event at a major new gallery in Milton Keynes. This, given their ability to outrage both the public and the art world, would be bound to turn a few heads.

"We found out that there is only one piece of graffiti in Milton Keynes," said George: "and it simply says 'Vicar Says Yes'." As ever, Gilbert & George are giving nothing, and everything, away.

'Gilbert & George: New Testamental Pictures', Museo di Copodimonte. Noples. To 7 February

The trouble with being earnest

CIRCUS
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
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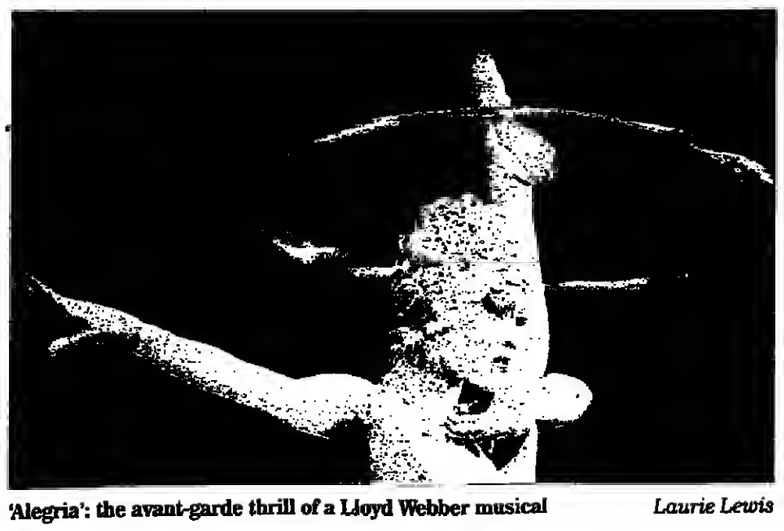
IF YOU have booked a holiday next century to go and watch an inter-collegiate gymnastics competition in post-apocalyptic Smolensk, for pity's sake cancel it now. For a fraction of the price, a near-flawless simulacrum is available for viewing at the Albert Hall, going under the name of *Alegria*.

The circus troupe Cirque du Soleil is now an international touring multifranchise, so that what seemed sizzlingly avant garde in mid-Eighties Quebec has acquired the anonymous patina of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. We no longer expect elephants in a circus, but we might expect rather more astonishing feats of human physical skill than this uneven show provides.

Not that there are no wonders. A beauteous elf in a luminous green leotard does quite remarkable things with steel hula-hoops, spinning one around her toes, casually held above her head, while others snake round her waist and shins. And a bevy of tumbling acrobats (who, sporting unisex camouflage-netting bikinis, come over alarmingly like extras from *Mad Max 3*) perform synchronised bouncy falls and a snowboarding competition's quota of mid-air spins. But a man on a trapeze, in a spangly Spiderman outfit from which somebody has cruelly ripped the sleeves, does little more than swing about a bit.

The less-than-amazing Cube Man, meanwhile, pulls himself up on suspended rings while his toes carry, er, a big cube. A "Polynesian artist" spins a few flaming sticks around. At one point he gets a hurning stick and then lights the other end. He then points at both ends of the stick, adopts an inscrutable grin and waits until the audience applauds.



'Alegria': the avant-garde thrill of a Lloyd Webber musical *Laurie Lewis*

One disappointment of *Alegria* is its po-facedness. Ordinary actions are carried out in a bizarre, debased ballet style, and there is a lot of pointless running about with stiff arms by the large supporting cast, who also fill in with bits of business such as wheeling on a bed and then, with unassailable logic, wheeling it off again. Occasionally an act is geotly mocked: after the Fire Artist, a sad-faced clown played nervously with a candle. But the clowns, too, were uninspired, staying with hoary favourites such as a big ball down the trousers. One wannabe clown epic had a vulgar finale involving powerful lights and a wind machine, clearly catering for tastes dulled by Hollywood cinema.

The gigantism of the show's presentation, indeed, dwarfed the really good acts, which needed a more intimate setting. But *Alegria* did boast one unequivocally fine element: the music, an alternately melancholic, humorous and adrenaline-pumping blend of French tango, jazz and curiously affecting power balladry. Only in Francophone hands can cheesy string synthesisers still sound even vaguely cool nowadays.

STEVEN POOLE

To 24 January. Booking: 0171-589 8212. A shorter version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

EDUCATION

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Bring it all back home

School project work has a lot going for it as a teaching method, but it is also a font of parental cheating, rampant copying and a resourcing nightmare. By **John Kirkaldy**

It was Sunday and a time of domestic bliss until... "Oh," says Doris, "Jim's A-level project is due in on Thursday." His folder revealed three bits of scruffy paper. There have been condemned men's breakfast menus with more writing on them. There then followed a time I can only equate to the German counter-offensive on the western front in March 1918. Bodies loomed up every now and then through the chaos. Panic and despair were everywhere. Only one figure kept calm amid the debris, like Field Marshal Haig, unaware of the total catastrophe that he had created. It is good to have a teenager to remind you of the really important things in life at a time like that: keeping up with the Australian and American soaps; ringing the girlfriend to update her on events; and gazing at your spots for long periods in the mirror.

As a teaching method, project work has a lot going for it. We all want our children to be self-motivated, independent learners. In the last 30 years, project work has come to dominate our classrooms, so in consequence an ever-larger percentage of GCSE and A-level work is devoted to it.

Yet I find myself becoming more and more uneasy about the whole thing. For a start, it places an ever-increasing load on teachers. In old-style education you prepared one lesson; in project work, you virtually prepare as many as there are in the class. Resourcing it is something of a nightmare. If everybody in the class does the same project, then the resources are under an impossible stress. If everybody does something different, then the teacher must find resources to suit each individual need.

For students, project work is a mixed blessing. For the bright and committed, it can be a really exciting opportunity. One of my students filmed and wrote up the experience of being in the Fastnet yacht race. She got sponsorship from Kodak and the loan of a special camera. Not only did she create a wonderful opportunity and gain a good final grade, she also got local and national press coverage. The experience looked good on a Ucas form and it has done well for her at interviews ever since. But most adolescents have a tendency to put things off to the last moment, and project work can mean a lot of wasted time. Group work can mean that one or two pupils tend to do most of the hard graft, while the rest merely tread water.

The temptation for parents to give a helping hand with project work gets ever more real as pressure mounts *Phil Dye*

Assessing project work has been one of the biggest growth areas in education. An army of moderators, verifiers and assessors (internal and external) now exists. A simple task, such as giving feedback to an individual student, can take just five minutes, yet it may take up to two hours to write up as part of the qualification.

Endless boxes must be ticked. (Were you aware of your body language when you gave feedback? Were you aware of the student's body language when you gave feedback? Did you take into consideration the student's race, gender, religion and sexual orientation when you gave feedback?)

I am also increasingly aware that I am often not assessing the student alone, but the student and parents. As the percentage of marks for project work increases and the competition to get into most universities grows, so the temptation to give more than a helping hand gets ever more real. Most parents will deny it and they all know that, in the long term, it is doing students no real favours. But when they are looking down the barrel of a failure or a poor grade, then they often succumb. Those pious statements that students sign to say that the work is all their own often have the sincerity of Hitler's remarks that this was his final territorial demand. Aiding and abetting project work is becoming one of the secret crimes of middle-class Britain.

Then there is new technology. No library can even remotely rival the Internet for information. But, I hear you cry, surely the schools have computers? Of course they do, but getting near one for any long period of time with a project imminent is like joining the queue for a lifeboat on the *Titanic*.

And this ignores the problems of vandalism, breakdowns, other classes' use and players enjoying card games on the screen. Those students who have access to a computer at home have a massive advantage over those who don't.

New technology has also encouraged something that teachers have largely tried to ignore. The copying of other'a work or adapting large chunks grows apace. When it involves other schools and other areas, it is impossible to control. I have heard of a project that has been done by three students already. I suspect that by the time Bill Gates launches Windows 2006, it will be possible to type in "Soil Erosion in Stoke Poges" and press a key and out will come the finished project, complete with W H Smith carrier bag to take it to school.

The truth is that not even Superman or Superwoman could regulate the vast piles of project work piling up for assessment all over the country. For the eight years that I tutored an A-level I used to tie up my projects in a special granny knot. On seven occasions I got them back with the knot untied and the marks unchanged. One year the board lost every single project, so I have no means of knowing.

We need to untie a lot more knots, if projects are to have any real meaning in education.

Local control is best

JUDITH JUDD

Many local authorities now talk about 'partnerships' with heads and governors

A READER wrote recently enclosing a cutting from *The Independent* for 6 October, 1988. The piece, by Peter Wilby, one of my predecessors and now the editor of the *New Statesman*, made a prediction: "Local education authorities will be extinct by 1998."

Wilby, of course, was wrong. Today, the north of England education conference begins in Sunderland, where representatives of the nation's local education authorities are assembling for their annual jamboree. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, will be there, proof enough that this is no marginal gathering of educational dinosaurs.

Local councillors were hated by the last government. This one is more ambivalent but the Prime Minister's advisers believe that real schools reform is impossible until they disappear. So how have authorities managed to fend off their enemies? One of their strongest cards is their opponents' difficulty in finding a replacement. If they didn't exist, should we need to reinvent them?

Kenneth Clarke, the former Conservative secretary of state for education, who tried harder than most to find a way of cutting local authorities out of the educational action, wanted to do just that. He considered regional bodies that would have no elected members and would be firmly under Whitehall's control. The solution was rejected as "too socialist", an objection which the present Government would presumably share.

Today, the opposition to local education authorities from people such as Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is based on the idea that schools would run their own affairs, buying in services they needed from commercial agencies. Mr Woodhead has suggested that local councils may create "a dependency culture" among schools.

But authorities' first line of defence is that they are not what they were. During the last decade, they have undergone a transformation. The Conservatives' decision to allow schools to opt out of local authority control has acted as a spur. Many councils have stepped back from their nannying role and now talk about "partnership" with heads and governors.

As Mr Blunkett will point out tomorrow, there are exceptions. A report last year on Calderdale education authority painted a picture of councillors who immersed themselves in the trivia of schools' daily life while failing to notice the Ridings school's descent into chaos. Also castigated was the London borough of Hackney, where councillors squabbled so much that they neglected local children's interests.

The answer, however, is not to abolish local education authorities. Even the Conservatives,who considered freeing all schools from local authority control, had civil servants working on (unpublished) plans for how to prop up small primaries: in short, they acknowledged that some schools would need the support of something very like a local authority.

This Government has sensibly accepted that local councils should have a role in planning school places and working out a fair admissions system. The alternative is a parental free-for-all in which the weak go to the wall.

A central source of advice and information – available if it is wanted – also makes sense at least for some schools.

Peter Wilby admitted in his 1988 piece that prediction-making was dangerous, but added: "Nobody reads old newspaper cuttings." He was wrong about that, too. But I remain undeterred. I predict that in 2009 local education authorities will still be alive and well. If they are not, Mr Hyman of Bushey Heath will no doubt let us know.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

It is hard to foresee a time when schools become irrelevant

ALAN SMITHERS

However necessary some shift from trust to accountability may have been, it has transformed the teacher's role

THE FIRST column of the last year of the millennium is a good time for reflecting back and looking forwards. As the Queen's Speech acknowledged, in education the immediate challenge facing the Government is to ensure that there are sufficient high-quality teachers. November's Green Paper shows that, nudged by the Treasury's "something for something" policy, it is putting its faith, for the time being, in performance-related pay.

But there are influential voices claiming that, soon, teaching will have been so transformed by information and communications technology that only a small specialist cadre of teachers will be required, capable of being recruited without difficulty from the increasing pool of graduates. In an extreme form, the argument is that schools themselves will become irrelevant.

It is remarkable, however, how little schools have changed since Roman times, in spite of the invention of the printing press, radio, television and the computer.

There are some who would suggest that this betrays a woeful lack of vision. But for me it underlines the enduring purpose of schools – to help the young to participate fully in their society and make sense of three-score-and-ten years on a lump of rock. Experience has shown that this is best achieved through actively coming together in the presence of someone who is able to pass on understanding to others.

It is likely, therefore, that there will be a continuing need in the new millennium to attract large numbers of good graduates to become teachers, people who must also be capable of using the latest technology to best advantage. There is no doubt that the many changes imposed on education in the last decade have failed to make this task any easier.

Not so long ago, the teacher-training institutions were able to attract nearly 70,000 applicants for some 50,000 places; nowadays there is a struggle to fill 30,000 places. In part, the previous popularity of the profession was because teacher training was seen as an alternative form of higher education, but it was also because teaching was regarded as a vocatioo. People were drawn to it by a sense of public service and, once qualified, they were free to teach what they wished, how they wished.

But over the years, in some cases, liberty lapsed into indulgence. Without any national checks of pupil performance until the examinations at the end of compulsory schooling, some wildly over-optimistic views of children's learning sprang up. Effort and practice came to be seen as unnecessary, indeed inimical, to learning, and it was felt that handling words and numbers would come naturally in the mere presence of books and other resources.

Faced with this nonsense, the Thatcher government embarked on reform. It put in place four main planks: a basic curriculum, setting down what no child should miss out on; national tests to check what the children were learning; inspections to see how the schools were doing; and a funding mechanism, which allowed decisions about spending to be taken as close to the classroom as possible.

New Labour has adopted these reforms as its own, and since coming to power has concentrated on providing the pressure and support to give them effect. This has often taken the form of setting targets, publishing and commenting on outcomes, and financially rewarding success.

However necessary some shift from trust to accountability might have been, it has transformed the teacher's role. Teachers are now subject to a new managerialism, in which they are continually having to account for themselves in ways which they feel do not always capture the true purposes of education.

In the past, many were drawn to teaching by the sense of being able to spend their lives in a worthwhile way, helping others. The salary may not have been very good, and the status may have been ambivalent, but they felt that they were able to take the important decisions for themselves.

Much of that autonomy has been taken away, without any compensatory attractions. In fact, herating teachers was to become one of the main ways of stabilising the system, so that it would accept reform.

This has left the Government with the urgent problem of coming up with a balance of potential satisfactions, which will make teaching an attractive profession in the new millennium. The Green Paper does not tackle this fundamental issue, and its version of performance-related pay will further undermine autonomy and security.

Paradoxically, the Government could achieve more by attempting less. It should have the courage to stand back and allow the new General Teaching Council to become a genuinely self-regulatory body. This would establish teaching as a true profession, alongside medicine and law.

But, above all, now that a necessary correction has been made, it should consider how the pendulum can be moved back more towards trusting teachers. With the guarantees of the national curriculum, tests and inspections, the Government should devise an equitable way of funding schools, and let them get on with it.

The writer is the Sydney Jones Professor of Education at the University of Liverpool

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£26,535 - £28,464

The Council is seeking to develop an Integrated Transport Plan for the District. This vacancy has arisen as a result of establishing a new group to address transportation issues. In addition to strategy the postholder will lead a team in the preparation of feasibility studies for travel and transported related schemes. The Council has a comprehensive agency with the County Highways Authority and is also directly responsible for a wide range of transport-related functions.

The post would suit a person with knowledge of transport planning and possessing management skills. A post graduate qualification in a transport-related field is desirable though not essential.

If you wish to discuss either post informally, please ring Richard Haisman, Head of Engineering, on: 01543 464594.

Planning and Property Services Division
Research and Information Officer £11,493 - £19,194 (Career Grade)

The Job – You will assist the Planning Division and other Directorates, giving advice and support on matters relating to bids for resources from both United Kingdom Government and European Union Programmes. You will also assist in the collection, analysis and interpretation of information to support bids and the implementation of and monitoring of key strategy documents including the adopted Local Plan.

The Person – You will be a graduate in planning or a relevant discipline. Knowledge and interest in the analysis and interpretation of published statistics would be an advantage.

Additional Benefits Include – Casual car allowance, relocation package, assistance to study for a relevant qualification and payment of a professional fee.

If you would like an informal chat regarding the post, please telephone: 01543 462621 and ask for Mike Price, Local Plans and Policy Manager.

If you are interested and would like to be considered for any of the above posts, please telephone: 01543 462313 (24 hour answering service) for an application form or write to: The Human Resources Management Unit, Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1BG. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd January 1999

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LE COMPTOIR DES LANGUES,
63 Rue Laboetie
75008 Paris
France

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THE HALL HAMPSTEAD

BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar, which becomes vacant on 1st January, 2000. The appointment will date from 1st September 1999, to enable the successful candidate to work alongside the present Bursar before assuming full responsibility for administration of the finances and property of the School.

The Hall is a leading London preparatory school, with 410 boys aged 5-13. Full details of the appointment may be obtained from the Bursar, Mr R. L. Orchard, The Hall School, 23 Crossfield Road, London NW3 4NU. Telephone: 0171-722 1700. Fax: 0171-483 0181.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1st February, 1999.

DEPARTMENT of METEOROLOGY

RESEARCH FELLOW

Ocean Modelling

A two year position starting in February 1999 is available to work on the establishment of a Europe-wide database for modelling the Mediterranean circulation. A PhD and previous experience in large scale ocean modelling and preparing web based materials, are required.

Salary range : £15,735 - £20,867 p.a.
Please quote REF: 896958/N
Informal enquiries to; Dr Keith Haines, Tel: 0131 650 5096 or email : kh@met.ed.ac.uk
Closing date: 21 January 1999.

DIVISION of ENGINEERING
SCHOOL of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

RESEARCH FELLOW

The position is on an EPSRC-funded project jointly with University of Sheffield on "Overtopping of Seawalls and Related Coastal Structures - Physical Model Study". This coordinated project with Manchester Metropolitan University is supported by HR Wallingford, Posford Duvivier and Bullen & Co. This post will be based primarily in Edinburgh, with approximately three months testing at Wallingford.

Applicants should hold a PhD in a related discipline, and have experience of hydraulic modelling.

The post is available from 1st February 1999 for 3 years.
Salary range : £15,735 - £18,275 p.a.
Please quote REF: 896962/N
Informal inquiries may be made to Tom Bruce, 0131 650 8701, Tom.Bruce@ed.ac.uk
Closing date: 28 January 1999.

Further particulars including the application procedure may be obtained from
THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT,
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
1 ROXBURGH STREET, EDINBURGH EH8 9TB.
Tel: 0131 650 2511 (24 hour answering service).
http://www.personnel.ed.ac.uk/recruit.htm

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The future is female

The law is no longer a male-only preserve, but it will take time to change its culture. By **Linda Tsang**

Solicitors have recently turned to spin doctors to try to get rid of the public perception that they are all middle-aged, male money-grubbers. But that image may already be about to undergo a radical change.

At the same time as revealing that it had retained a public relations adviser to improve the image of solicitors, the Law Society of England & Wales has also published its latest statistics on trends in the profession which show that the majority of solicitors under 30 are women.

And it is not just at the lower end of the profession that women are making their mark. If there is no challenge to their present positions, next year there will be women presidents at the head of the major professional organisations: Kamlesh Bahl at the Law Society, which deals with more than 95,000 solicitors in England and Wales; Diana Kempe, QC, will be president at the International Bar Association; and Martha Barnett at the American Bar Association. The Bar Council had its first woman as chairman in 1998 – Heather Hallett QC.

Some women have been bemused by the coverage of firsts in the legal profession. Diana Parker, who became the senior partner of Withers this month – and the first and youngest woman senior partner in a City law firm – sees the publicity surrounding her election as flattering, if misplaced. But she warned: "*Après moi le deluge.*"

Being first is only the beginning. An article in this month's *Legal Business* picks out "Forty wonder women in private practice", detailing the experiences of 40 leading women solicitors who are "spectacular performers with real client-pulling power".

Many of those women have encountered unenlightened attitudes. Frances Hughes, corporate partner at the City law firm Slaughter & May, says: "I was told years ago by one of my clients that he would fire me if I ever got married." She did get married, and the client continued to give her work, although he stipulated that there must be no children. Hughes now has a child and still works for the same client. Another partner at the same firm, a leading EU and competition lawyer, Laura Carstensen, became a partner in 1994 when she was a single parent and pregnant with her fourth child.

> *'Any good business should want to retain its best people – both men and women'*

Not all of them want to be superwoman, but many are trying to improve matters for those coming up the ladder after them. Diana Good, a leading commercial litigation partner at Linklaters, is the first woman to be elected on to the firm's management committee.

Good set up the firm's flexible working policy for partners; Linklaters is the only firm to have such a formal policy. She says that although such schemes are not a panacea, they are a good start – "any good business should want to retain its best people and accommodate different working practices, and that applies to both men and women."

Making an impact is not restricted to the legal sphere. Judith Mayhew, an employment lawyer at City law firm Wilde Sapte and chairman of the policy and resources committee at the Corporation of the City of London, is tipped to be a likely candidate for Mayor of London. She is also director of education and training at the firm. She agrees that women are less likely to have an impact at the junior level, "but if, in five to 10 years' time, they are not becoming partners in line with the 50-50 intake, then that will obviously be an issue that will have to be looked at sooner rather than later."

Women make up 25 per cent of the Bar – where, as recently as 10 years ago, there were still sets with no women members – and 7 per cent of the silks. The barrister Josephine Hayes, former chair of the Association of Women Barristers, says that "the future of the legal profession at the lower levels is that it will go on being male unless there are radical changes in the culture and attitudes about what type of legal system we want and the qualities needed for that legal system."

Despite the latest statistics, Hayes considers that the culture can be changed only if more women solicitors get partnerships. The Bar is, she says, more problematic because chambers are more insular. Further up the ladder, a judicial appointments commission would help change the view that judges are appointed on the basis of whom they know – ie other men.

At that highest level, a recent survey by the International Bar Association showed that women are under-represented in the judiciary in all jurisdictions – fewer than 25 per cent of the world's judges are women. England and Wales lag behind the rest of Europe, with women making up less than 10 per cent of the judiciary – Hungary and the Czech Republic have the highest numbers of women in the judiciary, with 69 per cent and 63 per cent respectively. In England, there is only one woman in the Court of Appeal, Lady Butler-Sloss. There are seven women in the High Court, compared with 97 men.

With more women entering the profession, the statistical likelihood is that there will be more women partners, silks and judges. Anne Rafferty QC says that "the legal profession should be merit-based and gender-irrelevant, and if it isn't, it should be".

Diana Good says: "It will not be exclusively female, but it will be more female than it is at present – and it may be more fun if it is."

Diana Good of Linklaters has set up a flexible working policy to help more women become partners at the firm *Phil Meech*

ESSAY COMPETITION

THE DEADLINE for this year's essay competition on "Law Beyond the Millennium" is 15 January 1999. The winner will win a scholarship to the College of Law. Entries should be sent to *The Independent*/College of Law Essay Competition, The College of Law, Braboeuf Manor, St Catherines, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HA.

For more information, contact the College's marketing department on 01483 460350.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

LOVELL WHITE DURRANT

Age: Prior to mergers, it's 100 years old.

History: The firm was formed in 1988 by the merger of two major City firms: first, Lovell, White & King – which had a large, broadly-based, international corporate practice and was founded in 1899 – and second, Durrant Piesse, a smaller firm known for its banking and financial services expertise, which was formed in 1973.

Address: Head office is in Holborn Viaduct, central London. There are also offices in Peking, Brussels, Chicago, Saigon, Hong Kong, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague, Singapore and Tokyo.

Ambience: Employees are loyal: more than 90 per cent of trainees are still with the firm two years after joining.

Vital statistics: There are more than 1,600 employees globally, including 165 partners and 840 lawyers.

Lifestyle: Trainees have a high chance of getting to work abroad at some stage: six-month secondments to international offices are common. Trainee solicitors are given their own budget for social events, and there's also an intermingling with employees from other law firms. There are plenty of sports teams: football, hockey, netball and squash, among others. The company is keen to provide trainees with the chance to get involved in *pro bono* work, including opportunities with Voluntary Service Overseas, the homeless, environmental charities and prisoners on Death Row. The banking litigator Ian Gardener, for instance, is currently planning to navigate his way across six countries to raise awareness and money for Motivation, a charity that trains people in developing countries to make and use their own wheelchairs.

Easy to get into? No. The company is hugely popular with applicants, with up to 2,000 applying for 80 contracts. You'll need at least a 2.1, plus good communication skills, a genuine interest in law and business, and plenty of energy, initiative and motivation. There are 70 work experience placements available during the Christmas and summer holidays. Successful applicants get an allowance of £200 a week. For more information, see the company's website: www.lovellwhitedurrant.com.

Glittering alumni: Peter Gerrard CBE, who became the first general counsel of the Stock Exchange; Graham Pimlott, director of Barclays Bank.

Pay: Trainees start on £21,000, which rises to £24,000 after 18 months. There's an annual salary review each May.

Training: Those taken on by the company are put through four six-month "seats" in differing practice areas: there is broad training in corporate and litigation sectors, and there's the opportunity to get experience in banking, intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, employment, environmental and insolvency cases as well. Trainees also undergo an individual programme of legal training.

Facilities: The staff restaurant is, it seems, about it. But, says a spokesperson, it has just been refurbished with new, tastier menus.

Who's the boss? Senior partner is Andrew Walker; managing partner is Lesley MacDonagh.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18)
Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: Stephen McCole, Kevin McKidd, Ewen Bremner

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of some of Edinburgh's less salubrious areas and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Story number one, "The Granton Star Cause", is a playful riff on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* as layabout wastrel Boab (McCole) gets conjured into a fly by the vengeful, boozing God (Maurice Roëves) whom he meets down the pub.

Story two, "A Soft Touch", comes on as a kind of social-realist Special Brew opera, as its affable, emasculated hero (the brilliant Kevin McKidd) finds himself cheated on by his missus and menaced by the tattooed thug who lives upstairs. Story three, "The Acid House", is both the most ambitious and the least coherent, an indiscriminate what-if scenario which has Ewen Bremner's rave kid switching places with a newborn bairn. In it, the revelations of an acid-trip are cross-cut to the trauma of birth, yet a clever conceit stays unfulfilled, buried under a ton of showy hallucinogenics. Overall, though, debut director Paul McGuigan (who trained as a stills photographer) turns *The Acid House* into a bit of a triumph; adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales and rustling up a film that's less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. A cracker, all told.
West End: Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)
Director: François Ozon
Starring: Evelyne Dandry, François Marthouret, Marina de Van

Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The debuting French film-maker is clearly a man of talent, but in *Sitcom* he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. This scatter-gun satire on middle-class mores takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family (*mère, père, fils et fille*) – setting a rat loose in the home and interjecting an implicitly queer and subversive vein to the increasingly fraught shenanigans. The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the next, and arrives heavily touched by the influence of Luis Buñuel and John Waters. Ozon's still, formal framing strikes a nice balance with the craziness contained inside.
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Virgin Chelsea

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)
Director: Jonathan Frakes
Starring: Patrick Stewart

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags, ribboned and bowed with reliably cheesy art-design and effects work, and wrapped up in rather more cornball romance than we're used to.

The yarn is nominally about Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who has hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. The trouble is that the whole *Star Trek* phenomenon has become less a story now than a series of self-reflective gestures. *Insurrection* takes no real risks with the format: it simply navel-gazes for a while, gives floorspace to the regulars and idles its way along to the climactic explosion.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Truman Show (15)
Peter Weir's ingenious and unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie – in the case of Jim Carrey's Truman Burbank, it is breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

Out of Sight (15)
This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

My Name is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film – humour, indignation, emotional sympathy – driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (*right*).

The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zonca's fine debut draws its strength from the personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose close friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Antz (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast and starring Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Love Upon the Throne
Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. *To 9 Jan*

Martin Guerre
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boubil/Schonberg musical (*right*). In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a lighter, magnificent show. *To 13 Feb*

Mr Puntila and His Man Matti
Albery Theatre
A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a split-personality landowner. *To 9 Jan*

Angela Carter Cinderella
Lyric, Hammersmith
This feast of inspired seasonal silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice to be found anywhere on a West End stage. *To 9 Jan*

A Month in the Country
Swan Theatre, Stratford
Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. *To 20 Feb*

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon
Royal Academy
"Life? Or Theatre?", Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz – an expressionistic operetta in three colours. *To 17 Jan*

Grinling Gibbons
Victoria & Albert Museum
The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. *To 24 Jan*

Chris Ofili
Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. *To 24 Jan*

Goya: The Disparates
Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery
Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a void world: life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. *To 23 Jan*

Edward Burne-Jones
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
This centenary exhibition (*right*) gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. *To 17 Jan*

TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE [SIB] (PG)
Seventeen-year-old Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious début stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. A luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the *unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero*

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)
Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. *West End: Curzon Mayfair*

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)
Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of another female figurehead – this time it's Queen Elizabeth I – struggling to gain purchase in a male world. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road*

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, to probe a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops at full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid clattering action set-pieces. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MIGHTY (PG)
Peter Chelsom's *The Mighty* treads through familiar coming-of-age country with its tale of two outcast kids (one fat, the other sickly) in a storybook Cincinnati. It's all a bit stolid and a tad predictable, though there's a glimmer of soul showing through. Sharon Stone and *The X-Files*' Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. *West End: Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing which sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
The Parent Trap catches Disney re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer as this spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) trying to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

A PERFECT MURDER (15)
With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. *West End: Warner Village West End*

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)
Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katharine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. *West End: Curzon Mayfair, Renoir*

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

RONIN (15)
Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. Thrill-an-hour stuff. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero*

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in the latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamefully funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind which drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. *West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine*

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)
Along comes Christmas and out comes *What Dreams May Come*. Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide bride. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) ⊖ Baker Street The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) ⊖ Piccadilly Circ Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm My Name Is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402] ⊖ Leic Sq. Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) ⊖ Leicester Sq. Buffalo 66 3.40pm, 8.40pm The Eel 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm It's a Wonderful Life 1.05pm, 6.05pm La Vie Revee des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road Antz 4.45pm, 9.45pm Enemy of The State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 7.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican The Mighty 6.15pm, 8.40pm Sitcom 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742] ⊖ Sloane Sq. On Connait la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) ⊖ Clapham Common Enemy of The State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 1.15pm, 4pm The Parent Trap 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.30pm Sitcom 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) ⊖ Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.15pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner Elizabeth 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) ⊖ Leicester Sq. Casablanca 1.45pm, 6.45pm Elizabeth 4pm, 9pm The Mighty 1pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name Is Joe 3pm, 9.15pm Sitcom 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) ⊖ Elephant & Castle The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) ⊖ Leicester Sq. Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate The Acid House 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Park Enemy of The State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Rush Hour 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6,20pm, 8.50pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) ⊖ Charing Cross Gay Sex in the Mainstream: Talk with Paul Burston and Alden Shaw 7pm Sex/Life in LA 7pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Apple 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET)0171-727 6705) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) ⊖ Camden Town The Acid House 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 1.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) ⊖ High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.35pm The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Sq. The Mask of Zorro 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) ⊖ Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9.05pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Rush Hour 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Sq. Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 8.25pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) ⊖ Swiss Cottage Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm Rush Hour 4pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) ⊖ Leicester Sq. Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) ⊖ East Finchley Elizabeth 6.15pm Left Luggage 1.45pm, 4pm Out of Sight 8.55pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Acid House 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Truman Show 3.35pm, 8.40pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) ⊖ Russell Sq. The Apple 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connait la Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

RIO CINEMA)0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland The Exorcist 8.45pm The Governess 1.30pm Kundun 3.45pm Rien Ne Va Plus 6.30pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) ⊖ Brixton The Acid House 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Enemy of the State 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm The Mask of Zorro 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm Out of Sight 6.35pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 4.30pm Rush Hour 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 2.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) ⊖ Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ⊖ Angel Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) ⊖ Belsize Park Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) ⊖ Kilburn Bringing Up Baby 3pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 8.55pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0870-603 4567) ⊖ Bayswater Antz 2.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 3.30pm Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Negotiator phone for details Out of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) ⊖ Sloane Sq. Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Sitcom 2.30pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) ⊖ South Kensington The Acid House 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Elizabeth 9pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Acid House 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm (+ Short) The Mighty 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 6.10pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Ronin 9pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) ⊖ Leicester Sq. The Acid House 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Blade 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Exorcist 9pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 6.10pm, 8.30pm Mulan 11.45pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm.

CINEMA
LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) ⊖ Park Royal Antz 5.40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.30pm Blade 9.30pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 6pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

BARNET
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ High Barnet Babe: Pig In The City 12noon Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm, 3.45pm, 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm Rush Hour 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.30pm, 8.15pm

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Babe: Pig In The City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 5.40pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 1.25pm, 3.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.30pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Antz 11.10am, 1.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 11.20am Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm The Mask Of Zorro 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Mighty 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm, 9.55pm The Parent Trap 11am, 1.30pm, 4.10pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.45am, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 9pm, 9.45pm What Dreams May Come 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

BROMLEY
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North Enemy of the State 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.50pm Rush Hour 6.15pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

CATFORD
ABC (0181-698 3306] BR: Catford Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.30pm

CROYDON
CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West Babe: Pig In The City 11am Cinema Paradiso 1.45pm The Mighty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 5.10pm, 7.10pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.25pm, 2.50pm Blade 9.40pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.05pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.35am The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.35pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ⊖ Dagenham Heathway Antz 5.40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 3.30pm Blade 9.40pm Enemy of the State 3.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 3.40pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) ⊖ Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Mask Of Zorro 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ⊖ Tottenham Hale Antz phone for details Babe: Pig In The City phone for details Blade phone for details Doli Sajake Rakhna phone for details Enemy of the State phone for details Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for details The Mask Of Zorro phone for details The Mighty phone for details Mulan phone for details The Negotiator phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Player's Club phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour phone for details Saving Private Ryan phone for details Small Soldiers phone for details Star Trek: Insurrection phone for details What Dreams May Come phone for details

ELEPHANT & CASTLE
CORONET (0171-703 4968) ⊖ Elephant & Castle The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11am, 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig In The City 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Blade 10pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Jhoola Bole Kauwa Kaate 3.15pm, 9.50pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kudrat 2.30pm, 9.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mighty 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm Mother 11.05am, 6.05pm Naseeb 2.55pm, 9.45pm Out Of Sight 6.50pm, 9.35pm The Parent Trap 11am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11am, 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm Wajood 11.35am, 6.25pm What Dreams May Come 11.05am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Zakhm 11.25am, 6.20pm

NORTH FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344] ⊖ East Finchley Antz 4.10pm, 7pm Babe: Pig In The City 10.50am, 1.20pm Enemy of the State 11.20am, 2.45pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.40am The Negotiator 9.25pm The Parent Trap 10.15am, 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 10.20am, 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 11.15am, 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Small Soldiers 10.25am Star Trek: Insurrection 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm 6.40pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) ⊖ Finchley Road Antz 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm, 2.50pm Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm The Negotiator 9.50pm Out Of Sight 7.05pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) ⊖ Golders Green Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Elizabeth 1.15pm Enemy of the State 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm The Mask Of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 1pm The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) ⊖ Belsize Park Enemy of the State 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.25pm, 3.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

HAMMERSMITH
VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Enemy Of The State 3pm, 6.10pm. 9.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm. 4.20pm. 6.30pm Rush Hour 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm. 3.30pm. 6.20pm. 8.50pm

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Fire 8.30pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 1.30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill Antz 5.50pm, 7.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.05pm. 3.30pm Enemy Of The State 9.20am, 12.10pm, 12.55pm, 3pm, 3.50pm, 6om, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.25pm The Mask Of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm The Prince Of Egypt 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705-050007) ⊖ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.10 Babe: Pig In The City 12.10pm Enemy Of The State 12noon, 2.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 5.35pm, 8pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.05pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm Out Of Sight 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.05pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm Rush Hour 3.55pm, 8.35pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.50pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) ⊖ Gants Hill Babe: Pig In The City 12.05pm Enemy Of The State 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.50pm, 4.10pm Rush Hour 6.20pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.30pm

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm Enemy Of The State 5.15pm, 8.05pm The Parent Trap 2.25pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705-050007) ⊖ Highgate Enemy Of The State 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Mask Of Zorro 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.50pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 1.50 Babe: Pig In The City 12noon Enemy Of The State 12.35pm 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm, 11.35pm (Fri) The Mask Of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Mighty 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 2.35pm Rush Hour 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.25pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig In The City 12.05pm Enemy Of The State 4.55pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.55pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ⊖ Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm Enemy Of The State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.25pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/⊖ Richmond Enemy Of The State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/⊖ Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm Out Of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.50pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm Enemy Of The State 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.55pm, 3.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12noon Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Enemy Of The State 12.905pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Mighty 9pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Small Soldiers 12.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup The Prince Of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm Sliding Doors 11.30am, 1.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Enemy Of The State 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mighty 8.30pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Rush Hour 3pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrecdon 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.30pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm The Mighty 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.40pm, 3.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Streatham Hill/ ⊖ Brixton/Clapham Common Babe: Pig In The City 1.10pm Blade 8.40pm Enemy Of The State 12 10pm. 2.55pm. 5.40pm. 8.25pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm, 3pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm Rush Hour 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/⊖ Stratford East Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 9pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990-888990) ⊖ Surrey Quays Babe: Pig In The City 3.20pm Enemy Of The State 3.40pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm The Mask Of Zorro 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.20am The Negotiator 10pm Out Of Sight 8.40pm The Parent Trap 3pm, 5.50pm The Prince Of Egypt 3.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour 7.30pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) ⊖ Morden Antz phone for details Babe: Pig In The City phone for details Enemy Of The State phone for details The Mask Of Zorro phone for details Out Of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince Of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour phone for details Star Trek: Insurrection phone for details What Dreams May Come phone for details

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊖ Turnpike Lane. Enemy Of The State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (08705-050007) ⊖ Uxbridge Dr Dolittle 11.40am Enemy Of The State 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm The Prince Of Egypt 12noon Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) ⊖ Walthamstow Central Babe: Pig In The City 12.45pm Enemy Of The State 5.20pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Enemy Of The State 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Prince Of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/⊖ Wimbledon/⊖ South Wimbledon Antz 11.30am Babe: Pig In The City 11.45am Enemy Of The State 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The Mask Of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 3.55pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.35pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ⊖ South Woodford Babe: Pig In The City 12.30pm Enemy Of The State 5.30pm, 8.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 1pm, 3.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Enemy Of The State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Prince Of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Roll Your Own: New Film Makers Showcase (NC) 7pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) Saving Private Ryan (15) 2pm, 8pm The Coffeehouse: Fassbinder (NC) 6pm Xanadu (NC) 6.15pm Primary Colors (15) 7.30pm The Roaring Twenties (PG) 8.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 (0181-444 8789) Left Luggage (PG) 1.45pm, 4pm Elizabeth (15) 6.15pm Out of Sight (15) 8.55pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) If Only (15) 1pm Left Luggage (PG) 3.45pm Fire (15) 6.15pm Good Will Hunting (15) 8.45pm

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) The Governess (15) 1.30pm Kundun (12) 3.45pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 6.30pm The Exorcist 25th Anniversary Reissue(18) 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Ridicule (15) 6.30pm + Le Bossu 8.35pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 1.30pm, 7pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) Henry Fool (18) 1.30pm, 6pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.15pm, 9.15pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) On Connait la Chanson (PG) 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Land Girls (12) 6pm, 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) My Name is Joe (15) 12.30pm, 7.15pm The Eel (18) 3pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show (PG) 5.10pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Pepe le Moko (15) 7.30pm Year of the Horse (15) 8.20pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Kundun (12) 3.30pm Still Crazy (15) 6.30pm The Governess (15) 8.45pm

IPSWICH
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Elizabeth (15) 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm La Vie Revee des Anges (18) 6pm, 8.15pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ◗ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only Madnees — (1): Sun, (3): Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thur, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

◗ **ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS** Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5)(7) 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

◗ **AMADEUS** David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

● **ANNIE** Rags to riches story of the nauseatingly optimistic orpban. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/⊖ Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 2.30pm, (1) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

◗ **ART** Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy star in Yasmina Reza's comedy. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (4) 3pm, (7)(1) 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Family musical based on Disney's cartoon fairytale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊖ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)(7) 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5(3pm, (7) 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

◗ **BOOGIE NIGHTS** Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) ⊖ Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, (6) 5.30pm, (7) 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150 mins.

● **BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of the 1950s rocker. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats (1) 4pm, £10-£27, Fri mat £5-£13.50, 160 mins.

● **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical versioo of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3)(7) 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

○ **CHICAGO** Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4)(7(3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

● **CINDERELLA** Angela Carter's versioo of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith. Today 1.30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50.

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, (5) 3pm, (7) 5pm, (1(4pm, £6-£25, Thu mats all seats £10. 120 mins.

◗ **DR DOLITTLE** Philip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊖ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4((7(2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

● **FAME THE MUSICAL** High-octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊖ Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

● **GREASE** Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 3pm, £10-£30. 150 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopber Cazeoove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed productioo of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 5pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

◗ **INTO THE WOODS** Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairy tales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

● **THE INVENTION OF LOVE** Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poel AE Houseman, author of *The Shropshire Lad*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

● **JESUS, MY BOY** Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ⊖ Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, (1) 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

● **KAFKA'S DICK** Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊖ Picc Circ. In rep today 3pm & 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

● **LOVE UPON THE THRONE** Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊖ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4))7) 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £7.50-£25.

● **THE MEMORY OF WATER** Alison Steadman and Julie Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (5)(7) 3pm, £8-£27.50.

● **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)(7) 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which resets the *Madam Butterfly* tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4((7) 3pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 2.45pm, (7) 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

● **MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI** Sean Foley and Hamish McColl star in a new versioo of Brecht's comedy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,)5)(7) 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£22.50.

○ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4)(7) 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

◗ **RENT** Musical inspired by *La Boheme* and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) ⊖ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
◗ **OLIVIER:** Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends 20 Feb. **NT2000** Peter Pan Opening performance of the NT2000 season. Tonight 6pm.

● **LYTTELTON:** Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's oew play recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. In rep today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins.

● **COTTESLOE:** Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play about the life of Hillsborough disaster survivors. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27, Cottesloe: £12-£18, NT2000: £4, concs £3, Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/⊖ Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
◗ **THE BARBICAN:** The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama. In rep today 1.45pm & 7.15pm. 165 mins.

○ **THE PIT:** The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep today 2pm & 7.15pm, ends 28 Jan. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26, The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/⊖ Barbican/Moorgate.

◗ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

● **THE SNOWMAN** Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' contemporary classic. Sadler's Wells at The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) ⊖ Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/⊖ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3)(7) 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

◗ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5)(7) 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

◗ **THE WEIR** Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)(7) 3.30pm, £5-£25, 90 mins.

◗ **WEST SIDE STORY** Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5)(7) 3pm, £15-£35, 160 mins.

○ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5)(7) 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

ARTS THEATRE Krapp's Last Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melacholic piece. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Fri & Sat 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £8-£12. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334/cc 741 9999) ⊖ Leic Sq.

HACKNEY EMPIRE Dick Whittington and His Cat Anita Dobson and Paul Meriarty star. 7-9 Jan, 7.30pm, 7-10 Jan, 2.30pm, £5.50-£15.50. *Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424)* BR: Hackney Central.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Perfect Days Liz Lochhead's poignant comedy about one woman's desire for motherhood. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £9-£16, concs £8. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ⊖ Swiss Cottage.

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song at Twilight Noel Coward's dark autobiographical play is directed by Sheridan Morley and stars Corin Redgrave. Tonight 8pm, ends 24 Jan, £12-£13, concs £7. Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) ⊖ Angel/Highbury & Islington.

YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights Collectioo of magical Eastern tales adapted for the stage by Dominic Cooke. Today 1.30pm & 7pm, ends 23 Jan. £7-£18. The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Tube/BR: Waterloo.

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

BASINGSTOKE
HAYMARKET THEATRE Canterbury Tales Join the Wife of Bath and Chaucer's other characters in Merrie Olde England. 7-9 Jan, 7.45pm, 7 Jan, 1.30pm, 9 Jan, £10.50-£16.50, concs available. Wote Street (01256-465566)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call
IT'S ALWAYS a risk to produce a family drama just after Christmas, but Hampstead Theatre has a show that should help clear any post-festive sloth. **The Memory of Water** is a bitter sweet comedy about three sisters, played by Julia Sawalha, Alison Steadman and Samantha Bond. This funny, poignant and acutely observed work explores relationships and memories when the sisters attempt to decipher several family myths. Shelagh Stephenson's play has already enjoyed a successful regional tour.
Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987) in preview, opens 11 Jan

Last Call
BARRING AN appearance on Robbie Williams' last album, **The Divine Comedy** *(right)* have maintained a low profile of late. However, the three year wait for new material has just ended with the announcement of a singule live date. Neil Hannon's outfit are a delicacy best savoured in small amounts with their unusual blend of intense and powerful ballads, sophisticated orchestration and catchy lyrics. As the Robbie Williams collaboration showed, Neil Hannon can move from pop to avant-garde with ease.
V3, 20 Stow Hill, Newport, Wales (01633 222555) 15 Jan

BRISTOL
NEW VIC STUDIO Freebird Jon Ivay's black comedy about motorcyle couriers on a mission to Cornwall. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £9, concs £6. King Street (0117-987 7877)

THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Panto extravaganza about the fabled fowl. Today 10.15am, 2.15pm, 7.15pm. ends 30 Jan. £3-£16. King Street (0117-987 7877)

CAMBRIDGE
CORN EXCHANGE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs With *Coronation Street's* Beverly Callard and Nick Cochrane. 7-10 Jan, 2pm, 7-9 Jan, 7pm, 9 Jan, 10.30am, 10 Jan, 5.30pm, £5-£14. Wheeler Street (01223-357851)

EASTBOURNE
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE Cinderella Starring Hinge and Bracket and Wendy Craig. 7 & 8 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 10 Jan, £7-£11, concs available. Compton Street (01323-412000)

EXETER
NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick Whittington Follow the penniless hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan, £7-£15, family £28, Stocker Road (01392-493493)

HIGH WYCOMBE
WYCOMBE SWAN Jack and the Beanstalk Jean Boht, Michael Elphick, Peter Duncan and Bonnie Langford star. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan, £8.50-£15.50, St Mary's Street (01494-512000)

TOWN HALL Almost Romeo and Juliet Musical panto for adults. 7-9 Jan, 7.45pm, £9. Victoria Street (01494-512000)

IPSWICH
SIR JOHN MILLS THEATRE Ferry Cross the Waveney Sixties story of a Lowestoft fishmonger who has dreams of knocking The Beatles out of the charts. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 16 Jan, £7.75-£9.50, concs available. Gatacre Road (01473-211498)

WOLSEY THEATRE A Christmas Carol The Wolsey Theatre offers Dickens' tale of greed in Victorian London as ao alterative to pantomime. 7-9 Jan, 7pm, mat today 2pm, £5-£15, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

NEWBURY
WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard of Oz Follow Dorothy down the Yellow Brick Road. Today 10.30am & 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan, £9.50-£14, concs available. Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORTHAMPTON
THE DERNGATE Aladdin's Cave of Entertainment Exciting family entertainment starring Billy Pearce as Aladdin and Victor Spinetti as Abanaza. 7 Jan, 2pm & 7pm, 8 Jan, 4.30pm 7.30pm, £12-£15, concs available. Guildhall Road (01604-624811)

ROYAL THEATRE The Secret Life of Humpty Dumpty Panto-style adaptation of the nursery rhyme. 7 Jan, 2.15pm, 7, 13-14, 16 Jan, 7pm, £9.50-£14, concs available. Guildhall Road (01604-632 533)

OXFORD
APOLLO THEATRE Jesus Christ Superstar Tim Rice and Lloyd Webber's acclaimed Biblical musical. 6 & 9 Jan, 3pm & 7.30pm, £7.50-£24.50, concs available. George Street (01865-244544)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan, £6-£16.50. Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

READING
THE HEXAGON The Wizard of Oz Michaela Strachan goes over the rainbow. 7 & 9 Jan, 2pm & 7pm, 8 Jan, 7.30pm, 8 & 10 Jan, 4.15pm, £10.50-£15, concs available. Queens Walk (0118-960 6060)

THE MILL AT SONNING Worm's Eye View Wartime Wartime comedy about a landlady forced to house airmen and protect her daughter from their attentions. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mat Sat 2.15pm, ends 9 Jan, £21.95-£32.95, incl meal. Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Narnia classic. Today 1.30pm & 7.15pm, end 27 Feb, £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE Troilus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb, £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWANSEA
GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Melinda Messenger and Steven Houghton star as Cinderella and Prince Charming. Today 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 30 Jan, £6.50-£12.75, concs available. Singleton Street (01792-475715)

WATFORD
PALACE THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Roy Hudd's family panto. 7 Jan, 2pm & 6.45pm, 8 & 9 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £5-£13. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

EXHIBITIONS

AYLESBURY
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM Chocolate Exhibition with chocolate at its heart. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 31 Jan, £3.50, child £2. Church Street (01296-331441)

BATH
THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY All Zones Off Peak: Tom Wood Photographic representation of bus journeys. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm, ends 24 Jan, £2.50, concs £1.75. The Octagon Galleries, Milsom Street (01225-462841)

BRIGHTON
BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition marking the centenary of his birth. Mon, Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Church Street (01273-290900)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians A vision of the 19th-century presented by 20th century artists. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable. Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistler, Fantin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CHELTENHAM
CHELTENHAM ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM At the Sign of the Rainbow: Margaret Calkin James (1895-1985) Restrospective of designs, calligraphy and paintings. Mon-Sat 10am-5.20pm, ends 23 Jan, free. Clarence Street (01242-237431)

EXETER
ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM Designs on Life: Edward Bawden Wide variety of work by the prominent graphic designer. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 23 Jan, free. Queen Street (01392-265858)

LONDON
BRITISH MUSEUM Earlier Monetary Unions Looking at the history of European common currencies. Ends 10 Jan, free.
Claude Lorrain Over 100 drawings by the 17th-century artist. Ends 10 Jan, £1, concs 50p (incl entry to Mantegna to Rubens).
Mantegna to Rubens: Drawings From The Weld-Blundell Collection Old Master drawings. Ends 10 Jan, £1, concs 50p (incl entry to Claude Lorrain).
The Golden Sword: Stamford Raffles and The East Art and artefacts exploring the life and work of the founder of Singapore. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends Apr 18, £4, concs £2. Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1555) ⊖ Russell Square/Tottenham Court Road/Holborn.
TATE GALLERY Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Ofili, Cathy De Monchaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Ends 10 Jan, £1.50.
John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19th-century artist. Ends 17 Jan, £6, concs £4.
Art Now 16: Something Is Missing - Jean-Marc Bustamante Installation exploring international cities in photographs. Ends 31 Jan, free.
Turner In the Alps Works on paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb, free.
In Celebration: The Art of The Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb, free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico.

NORWICH
NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM A Talent to Amuse: Henry William Bunbury Suffolk born caricaturist's drawings of 18th-century society. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 10 Jan, £2.40, concs £1.60, child £1.10, family £5.90. Castle Meadow (01603-223624)

OXFORD
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Tiles from East and West Tilework from the ancient Near East and the classical world, the Orient and Islamic world and from major European production centres. Ends 10 Jan.
19th Century French Drawings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar major drawings. Opens 5 Jan, ends 28 Feb.
The Painterly Brush Oil sketches dating from the 16th to the early 20th century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free. Beaumont Street (01865-278000)

ST IVES
ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the ceotury and a selection of contemporary work.
Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Mootserrat in the West Indies, the artist's birthplace. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr, £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

CLASSICAL

LONDON
ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Iain Quinn Organ recital of Bach and Hindemith. Today 1pm. £5.
Cellini Ensemble A Centenary concert for Poulenc featuring music by him and other Frenchmen. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£15. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) ⊖ Westminster.

PURCELL ROOM Mark Kruger The pianist plays Ives's *Concord* Sonata. Tonight 6pm. £4.50-£7.50, Galliard Ensemble/Anne-Sophie Bertrand Juxtaposing contemporary music for wind quintet and solo harp. Tonight 7.30pm, £5.50-£9.50, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

WIGMORE HALL Nash Ensemble Poulenc Centenary Concert. Tonight 7pm. Phone for availability. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) ⊖ Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

OPERA

LONDON
QUEEN'S THEATRE The Pirates of Penzance New D'Oyly Carte Opera production of Gilbert and Sullivan directed by Stuart Maunder. Tonight 7.30pm. £15.50-£29.50. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus.

DANCE

CARDIFF
ST DAVID'S HALL Moscow City Ballet: Cinderella The timeless fairy tale with Tchaikovsky's score. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £19.50-£26.50. The Hayes (01222-878444)

LONDON
LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's staging of favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Tonight 7pm (Klimentova/Tewsley). £2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ⊖ Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

LYCEUM THEATRE Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker Peter Wright's stunning production. Today 2.30pm (Sakuma/Cao/Justin), tonight 7.30pm (Vallo/Parker/Fisher). £12.50-£45. Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656 1802) ⊖ Charing Cross/Embankment.

PLACE THEATRE Resolution! Over 100 up and coming choreographers' work in London's important annual platform season. Mon-Sat, 8pm, ends 13 Feb. £8, concs £6. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) ⊖ Euston.

ROUNDHOUSE Stomp Eight performers create a witty rhythmic symphony. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 4pm, ends 17 Jan. £10-£25 plus booking fee. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420 0000) ⊖ Chalk Farm.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL Cirque Du Soleil: Alegria A celebration of contortionists, acrobats, aerial artists and fire dancers. Tue-Sun 7.45pm, mats Sat & Sun 2.30pm, ends 24 Jan, £23.50-£45. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) ⊖ High Street Kensington.

LITERATURE

BRIGHTON
OPEN YOUR MOUTH A platform for anyone with something to say. Disco Biscuit Cafe Queens Road (01273-721221) Thur 10pm-2am, free.

LONDON
BOOKBINDING 1998 Examples from the 1998 Bookbinding Competition on display, plus short-listed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Foyer Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) ⊖ Euston/Kings Cross. Mon, Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Tue 9.30am-8pm, Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, free.

COMEDY

BRIGHTON
THE LAUGHTER AKADEMY AT AKADEMIA Jeff Mirza, Dannt Bhoi, Dylao Rhymer, David Keay, MC Kevin Precious. Tonight 8.30pm, Manchester Street (01273-709977) £5, concs £3.50.

LONDON
CANAL CAFE THEATRE JOHN DOWIE'S POETRY SHOW Humour from the Brummie comic. Tue-Sat 8pm, £6, concs £4, plus £1 m'ship.

COMEDY CAFE Dan Antopolski, Hal Cruttenden, Steve Merchant, Noel James, MC Lee Canterbury Tonight 8pm, Rivington Street, EC2 (0171-739 5706) ⊖ Old Street, £2.

OXFORD
JONGLEURS OXFORD Tooy Morewood, Anthony Kiog, Gina Yashere, Iranian comic Omid Djalili. Tonight 7.45pm, Hythe Bridge Street (0845-6081818) £8.

EVENTS

AYLESBURY
CHOCOLATE Danger and subversion... An exhibition of contemporary artwork inspired by and made from chocolate. Buckinghamshire County Museum Church Street (01296-331441) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 31 Jan, £3.50, children (ages3-6yrs) £2.

BRIGHTON
HOLIDAY ON ICE Ice dance extravaganza with special guest star Robin Cousins. Brighton Centre Kings Road (0870-900 9100) Fri 7.30pm, Tue-Thu 2pm, Sat 2pm, 5pm & 8pm, Sun 2pm, ends 31 Jan, £10-£18, OAP £8.50-£14.50, child £6.

LONDON
WINTER WONDERLAND ART CAMP (AGES 4-14): CHILDREN'S EVENT Art activities full of festive inspiration from around the world. The Art Workshop Rosemont Road NW3 (0171-431 5696) ⊖ Finchley Road. Mon-Fri, ends 8 Jan, £120 per week or £30 per day.

THE GREAT CHALLENGE 1998 International political cartoon exhibition, in aid of Amnesty International, Index on Censorship and the Cartoon Art Trust. The Gallery, Oxo Tower Wharf ground floor Bargehouse Street SE1 (0171-928 6193) ⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 10 Jan, free (donations welcomed).

SHOW BUSINESS EXHIBITION Original designs illustrating theatre, opera, ballet and film. National Theatre: Lyttelton South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sat 10am-11pm, free.

EXCURSIONS '99 One day Group Organisers exhibition, with over 230 exhibitors offering a whole new range of excursions. Olympia Hammersmith Road W14 (0171-244 0950) ⊖ Earls Court/Olympia. Today 10am-4pm, phone for prices

ST ALBANS
THE REALLY SENSIBLE SHOW A touring exhibition exploring the five senses. Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road (01727-819340) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 17 Jan, free.

MUSIC
POP

LONDON
PECADILOES, TINY TOO, COLDPLAY Strong alternative bill for Fierce Panda's continuing pop feast, with Scandinavian girl-rock trio Tiny Too to look out for. Bull & Gate Kentish Town Road NW5 (0171-485 5358) ⊖ Kentish Town. Tonight 8.30pm. £4, concs £3.50.

PAULINE TAYLOR The former Faithless member sings her own, folky work. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) ⊖ Camden Town. Tonight 8pm. £7.30.

PORTSMOUTH
BAD MANNERS Ska bash with Buster Bloodvessel and the gang. Wedgewood Rooms Albert Road, Southsea (01705-863911) Tonight 8pm. phone for prices.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

DARTFORD
PENTARCHY Brian Hammond's contemporary bop combo. Darenth Tavern Green Street (01474-703203) Tonight 8pm. free.

DORKING
ART THEMAN Established mainstream Tenor/soprano sax player. The Watermill Reigate Road (01306-887831) Tonight 8.30pm. £8, £6 members and MU cards.

LONDON
BOB MARTIN QUARTET US bop saxophonist with Johnny Philips, Ricardo dos Santos and Andrea Trillo. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) ⊖ Fulham Broadway. Tonight 9.30pm & 12midnight. £4.95.

MOSE ALLISON TRIO Mississippi pianist and singer whose mix of blues and bebop has been documented by Blue Note, Prestige and Verve Records. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8.30pm, £12.50 (Fri-Sat £15)

RAY GELATO GIANTS Las Vegas style swing band. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm. £18, adv £16.

GEORGIE FAME AND THE BBC BIG BAND R&B and bop vocalist with the classy Beeb ensemble. Queen Elizabeth Hall South Bank Centre SE1 (0171-960 4242) ⊖ Waterloo. Tonight 8pm. £10-£16.

RUDE WITH ANNIE WHITEHEAD AND HARRY BECKETT Freewheeling trombonist Annie Whitehead and Caribbean trumpet veteran Harry Beckett play funk, bebop and bluebeat alongside bassist Ian Maidman and drummer Liam Genockey. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. Tonight 9pm. £6.

THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. **9.00** Simon Mayo. **12.00** Kevin Greening. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Chris Moyles. **6.00** Dave Pearce. **8.00** Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. **10.00** Trade Update. **10.10** John Peel. **12.00** Andy Kershaw. **2.00** Clive Warren. **4.00 - 6.30** Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
5.00 Alex Lester. **7.30** Sarah Kennedy. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** Johnnie Walker. **7.00** David Allan. **8.00** Paul Jones. **9.00** Barry Took's Comedy Classics: the Men from the Ministry. **9.30** Love 40 - Naw Balls Please. **10.00** Girls and Guitars. **10.30** Richard Allinson. **12.00** Lynn Parsons. **3.00 - 4.00** Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Ensamble.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. A performance given at the 1997 Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music conducted by Joshua Rifkin, an American Bach scholar and performer. Susanne Ryden (soprano), Steven Rickards (countertenor), Ian Partridge (tenor), Michael Schoppar (bass), Bach Ensamble/Joshua Rifkin. Bach: Cantata No 30 'Freue dich, erloste Schar'; Mass in G, BWV236.
8.35 Postscript. Five specially commissionad dramatic monologues that combine fiction end a news story. 4: 'Abide with Me'. By John Fletcher. (R)
8.55 London Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Colin Davis. Sibelius: En Saga. Beethoven: Symphony No 7 in A.
10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping and Chris de Souza introduce the first of two programmes of previously unheard treasures from 'Music Restored's 1998 recordings. This week's selection includes Spanish polyphony from Chapelle du Roi; solos by fortepianist Ronald Brautigam, harpsichordist Mitzi Meyerson and theorbo player Rolf Lislevand; and e Bach aria sung by countertenor Robin Blaze.
10.45 Night Waves. As Alfred Hitchcock's classic 'Psycho' is remade shot by shot by Gus Van Sant. Paul Allen examines the legacy of Norman Bates and the value of imitation. Plus the eagerly awaited European opening of a major retrospective of anothar master of atmosphere, the American abstract artist Mark Rothko.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

PICK OF THE DAY

TWO IN A ROW to stay awake for. **World of Pub (11pm R4)**, a blokeishly droll series by the up-and-coming Tony Roche, has been given a well-deserved longer slot. The basic gag remains unchanged: Dodgy Phil comes up with daft schemes to get folk into Barry and Garry's eternally doomed boozer – tonight, a millennium makeover is decided upon. Edith Piaf *(right)* is listed as a special guest: enough said.

It's followed, incongruously, by an adaptation of Geoffrey Hill's slim magnum opus, **Mercian Hymns (11.30pm R4)** – the series of prose poems revisiting the life of the eighth-ceotury overlord, Offa: "King of the perennial holly-groves". Simon Russell-Beale is among those savouring every lush syllable.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg.
9.30 Lean Times.
9.45 Serial: The Vanished World.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; From Our Own Correspondent.
11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
1.00 Tha World at One.
1.30 Hidden Treasures.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Haad of Medusa.
3.00 NEWS; Cell You and Yours: 0870 010 0444.
3.30 The Melting Pot.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 Word of Mouth.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Worriers.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme, including a reassessment of the screen's favourite sharp-talking, soft-hearted tough guy - Humphrey Bogart, who was born 100 years ago.
7.45 Under One Roof. The last of three live-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (4/5).
8.00 NEWS; Case History. Professor Roy Porter reconsiders the performance of leading political figures of the 20th-century by looking at their health. Reagan and Brezhnev. In the 1980s, the world's superpowers were led on one side by someone who could not always remember the names of the cabinet, on the other by a man who called Margaret Thatcher Mrs Gandhi just beceuse an aid had given him the wrong cue card. (R)
8.30 The Political Euro. The European single currency has been launched this week. But it is not just about money. It is a major political step towards European integration. Gordon Brewer assesses the implications.
9.00 NEWS; Testbeds. 'Plastics for Everything - Including TV Screens'. In the first of a ten-part series, Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that will shape our tuture.
9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.
10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's novel (4/15).
11.00 NEWS; World of Pub. Tony Roche's four-part comedy series returns, with Dodgy Phil and another of his schemes to fill the pub with punters. Special guest Edith Piaf. See *Pick of the Day*.
11.30 Experimental Feature: Mercian Hymns. See *Pick of the Day*.
11.45 It's a Funny Old World.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. **12.00 - 12.04** News; Shipping Forecast.
5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Hardest Game. Harry Carpanter has bean the voica of boxing for nearly 50 years - until he retired as BBC television's boxing commentator in 1992. In this series, he reflects on the sport from the 1950s fo the present day.
8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the issues that affect the sporting world.
9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene, and footballing legend Ian Wright telks about his passion for basketball.
9.30 Sportshop. Trixie Rewlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations end news of all the latest sporting gadgets.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crick. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert. **11.00** Alan Mann. **3.00** Mark Griffiths. **5.00 - 8.00** Nick Bailey.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. **9.30** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Harriet Scott. **7.30** Mark Forrest. **10.00** Janey Lee Grace. **1.00** James Merritt. **4.30** Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** Composer of the Month. **2.00** Newsday. **2.30** Focus on Faith. **3.00** World News. **3.05** World Business Report. **3.15** Sports Roundup. **3.30** Assignment. **4.00 - 7.00** The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **12.00** Lorraine Kelly. **2.00** Anna Raeburn. **4.00** Peter Dealey. **5.00** Tha Sports Zone. **8.00** James Whale. **12.00 - 6.00** Ian Collins.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Walk Like a Man (1987) (26281). **8.00** Green Card (1990) (79026). **10.00** Frog and Wombat (1998) (12668). **12.00** The Directors (15755). **1.00** Femmes Fatales (97303). **2.00** Walk Like a Man (1987) (515755). **3.45** Frog and Wombat (1998) (657465). **5.30** Green Card (1990) (70129). **7.30** Hollywood Buzz (3755). **8.00** First Do No Harm (1997) (38620). **10.00** Metro (1997) (48754). **12.00** Stealing Beauty (1996) (33514). **2.00** Awakenings (1990) (85175). **4.00 - 6.00** Desperate Trail (1994) (81798).

SKY MOVIEMAX
7.00 The Hired Heart (1997) (92465). **9.00** Torn Between Two Lovers (1979) (51620). **11.00** Unwed Father (1997) (35804). **1.00** The Challengers (1988) (62736). **3.00** The Hired Heart (1997) (67552). **5.00** Torn Between Two Lovers (1979) (64587). **7.00** Unwed Father (1997) (31649). **8.30** El News Week (4259). **9.00** Murder in Mind (1996) (46643). **11.00** Executive Decision (1996) (85318649). **1.30** Bachelor Party (1984) (968576). **2.55** Keys to Tulsa (1997) (678408). **4.50 - 7.00** The Challengers (1988) (57664934).

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Fighting Seabees (1944) (3149620). **6.00** I'll Be Seeing You (1944) (7527533). **8.00** Spellbound (1945) (7539378). **10.00** Brubaker (1980) (64832510). **12.10** Alex and the Gypsy (1976) (2444243). **1.50** Under the Volcano (1984) (8070953). **3.45** The Lineup (1958) (2535514). **5.15** Close.

FILMFOUR
6.00 Widows' Peak (1994) (7419007). **8.00** The Last Emperor (1987) (4303910). **12.00** Go Fish (1995) (9980446). **1.25** The Farm - Angola USA (3361601). **2.55** 1984 (1984) (2845786). **4.50 - 8.00** Stranger Left No Card (4000717).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1096939). **4.30** Walker's World (1085823). **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (1539804). **5.30** History's Turning Points (1172303). **6.00** Animal Doctor (1179216). **6.30** Hunters (2493026). **7.30** Beyond 2000 (1086552). **8.00** Discover Magazine (9565858). **9.00** Clone Age (9472194). **10.00** Super Structures (9475281). **11.00** Forensic Detectives (9137197). **12.00** UFO, Down to Earth (3086069). **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (4268088). **1.30** History's Turning Points (9753779). **2.00** Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE AMERICAN medical series **ER (9.30pm Sky 1)**, may be overhyped and over here, but it is one of the few television dramas tbat makes for consistently rewarding viewing. Emigrating from North London to Africa, it was one of the things that a woman in a recent *Cutting Edge* documentary was most worried about was missing. As it enters its fifth season, the series shows no sign of waning. After all, what other mere TV show could keep bold of a movie star such as George Clooney *(right)* if it didn't maintain seriously high standards? In the first episode of e new series, we see the whirligig of action through the eyes of a newcomer to the Emergency Room, eager young medical student Lucy Knight. As you might expect, sbe is thrown into the deep end without a lifebelt. An old trick, deftly executed.

JAMES RAMPTON

SKY 1
7.00 Count Duckula (98723). **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (64484). **8.30** Hollywood Squares (74910). **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (91397). **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (86804). **11.00** Guilty! (48228). **12.00** Jenny Jones (95945). **1.00** Mad about You (48264). **1.30** Jeoperdy (29151). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (57804). **3.00** Jenny Jones (11465). **4.00** Guilty! (23200). **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (3649). **6.00** Married with Children (7151). **6.30** Dream Team (1533). **7.00** The Simpsons (4378). **7.30** The Simpsons (3945). **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3026). **8.30** World's Weirdest TV (2533). **9.00** Friends (29484). **9.30** ER (80113). See *Pick of the Day*. **10.30** Veronica's Closet (68303). **11.00** Dream Team (98259). **11.30** Earth: Final Conflict (63736). **12.30** Highlander (54156). **1.30 - 7.00** Long Play (5133088).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (6544213). **7.15** World Wrestling (611668). **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (4462804). **8.30** Racing News (43849). **6.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (30129). **9.30** You're on Sky Sports (61533). **10.00** Figure Skating (81397). **12.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (47465). **12.30** Budweiser Basketball (54587). **2.30** Total Sport (1552). **3.00** Watersports World (42303). **4.00** Pool (58910). **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (5649). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (2281). **6.30** Football League Review (3533). **7.00** What a Weekend (6378). **7.30** Futbol Mundial (5945). **6.00** Spanish Football (75858). **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (684552). **10.15** You're on Sky Sports (800945). **10.45** Trans World Sport (494113). **11.45** Sky Sports Centre (676216). **12.00** You're on Sky Sports (97175). **12.30** Football Review (50156). **1.00** Spanish Football (71359). **3.00** World Sport (74717). **4.00** Sports Centre (15958175). **4.15** Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (9656194). **7.30** Sky Sports Centre (9350378). **7.45** Racing News (8410484). **8.15** Unbelievable Sports (8196397). **8.45** Sky Sports Centre (9268571). **9.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (6499216). **9.30** Fish TV (7864194). **10.00** Pool (9864113). **11.00** Golf Extra (6037228). **2.00** Unbelievable Sports (3232552). **2.30** Fastrax (4348804). **3.00** Motor Sport (2972281). **4.00** Sports Unlimited (2064216). **5.00** Inside the PGA Tour (3223804). **5.30** Football Review (4342620). **6.00** What a Weekend (4349533). **6.30** The Rugby Club (2520262). **7.30** Ice Hockey (4392769). **10.00** Golf USA US (2971552). **12.00** the PGA Tour (4951886). **12.30** Golf USA (8187175). **2.30** Ice Hockey (8386175). **5.00-5.15** Sports Centre (45780330).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (68206200). **1.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (66478113). **1.30** Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (68295736). **2.00** Sky Sports Classics (13096755). **3.00** The Entertainers (19729200). **3.30** Figure Skating (77515623). **5.30** Unbelievable Sports (42866533). **6.00** Survival of the Fittest (42969674). **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour (42867026). **7.00** Tight Lines (40268465). **6.00** Motor Racing: Race of Champions 1998 (40277113). **9.00** The Rugby Club (40264849). **10.00** Charlton's Football Scrapbook (50973303). **11.30** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (20216). **8.00** Alpine Skiing (18649). **9.00** Skiing (65610). **11.00** Rally (69026). **11.30** Ski Jumping (38113). **1.00** Snowboarding (88200). **2.00** Alpine Skiing (91262). **3.00** Tennis (16842). **5.00** Alpine Skiing (6945). **6.00** Tennis (75736). **7.00** Football (284216). **9.30** Rally (70261). **10.00** Alpine Skiing (77533). **11.00** Trial (27129). **12.00** Rally (82243). **12.30** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (4383295). **7.30** Neighbours (9342674). **7.55** EastEnders (1100533). **8.30** The Bill (8568484). **9.00** The Bill (8559736). **9.30** The House of Eliott (2508936). **10.30** Angels (8548820). **11.00** Dallas (6973755). **11.55** Neighbours (96825303). **12.25** EastEnders (7678007). **1.00** Juliet Bravo (4048668). **2.00** Dallas (1251216). **2.55** The Bill (1691533). **3.25** The Bill (6811200). **3.55** EastEnders (3688303). **4.30** Angels (1087281). **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1550397). **6.00** Dynasty (4028804). **7.00** May to December (9802026). **7.40** The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (1074874). **8.20** Yes, Minister (3791736). **9.00** Fawlty Towers (4808281). **9.40** Fawlty Towers (1495277). **10.25** Ivanhoe (92491939). **11.30** The Bill (6374656). **12.00** The Bill (5044779). **12.30** Spender (9614525). **1.25** Film: The Ghoul (1933) (3979311). **3.00 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (2895040).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (49841113). **6.20** Philbert the Frog (29727200). **6.30** Johnson and Friends (64605216). **6.45** Tiny Tales (17959533). **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts (17970026). **7.00** Practical Parenting (5230688). **7.05** Professor Bubble (5214649). **7.30** Caillou (5137842). **7.35** Bug Alert (6284378). **7.55** Practical Parenting (6758194). **8.00** Barney and Friends (2948823). **8.30** Tiny Tales (747494). **8.35** Tiny and Crew (6825804). **8.50** Practical Parenting (9334194). **9.00** Diet Show (2035674). **9.30** The Roseanne Show (3968262). **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show (6724007). **10.50** Maury Povich (5544574). **11.40** Brookside (56445216). **12.10** Animal Rescue (74556281). **12.40** Rescue 911 (13681668). **1.10** Special Babies (23849007). **1.40** Beyond Belief (79514378). **2.10** LA Law (3626303). **3.10** The Jerry Springer Show (7489484). **4.00** Michael Cole (4083007). **4.50** Rolonda (9459561). **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook (7880674). **6.15** Jerry Springer (1078303). **7.05** Rescue 911 (4195113). **7.35** Animal Rescue (9578533). **8.00** Murder Call (7526804). **8.00 Film:** Call Me Anna (1990) (7529991). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (3689804). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 Tappy New Year: Marlowe (1969) (40278842). **11.00** Lady in the Lake (1946) (21470668). **1.00** Sitting Target (1972) (21421392). **3.00** Marlowe (1969) (81489840). **5.00** Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Clueless (7620). **7.30** Desmond's (3587). **8.00** Roseanne (3668). **8.30** Just Shoot Me (8303). **9.00** Cybill (52736). **9.30** Seinfeld (83755). **10.00** Frasier (46736). **10.30** Cheers (55484). **11.00** Festival of Fun II (5726). **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show (92991). **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman (51934). **1.00** Taxi (21866). **1.30** The Critic (88885). **2.00** Dr Katz (38205). **2.30** Soap (40040). **3.00** Wings (34330). **3.30** Nightstand (31392). **4.00** Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (281).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 2.55 Dotaman (3886823). **3.10** Dochaidh Mor (Oakey Doke) (9135804). **6.00** News (129). **6.30** Reporting Scotland; Weather (281).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (281). **2.25** Joins BBC News 24 (79419224).

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (6146755). **1.00** Up-Thot (1490378). **1.35** Home and Away (65548804). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (2060113). **3.20** Anglia News and Weather (2154397). **5.10** Shortland Street (3551246). **6.00** Home and Away (395842). **6.25** Anglia News (286133). **7.30** Golden Lotus (533). **10.30** Anglia News and Weather (275736). **12.10** Tales from the Darkside (5141953). **12.40** The Jerry Springer Show (7924088). **1.25** Film: The Super (9163953). **2.55** Box Office America (7082311). **3.25** Cybernet (86748804). **3.55** Murder, She Wrote (1800359). **4.45** Judge Judy (34797866). **5.05** ITV Nightscreen (1901885).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6146755). **1.00** Echo Point (60842). **3.20** Central News (2154397). **5.10** Shortland Street (3551246). **6.00** Home and Away (397). **6.30** Central News and Weather (468397). **6.55** Lifeline (861620). **7.30** My Mum's a Knockout (533). **10.30** Central News (275736). **4.10** Jobfinder (8345427). **5.20** Asian Eye (4473021).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.25 This Morning (62898303). **12.15** HTV News (9520007). **1.00** Shortland Street (1490378). **1.35** Home and Away (65548804). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (2060113). **3.20** HTV News (2154397). **5.10** A Country Practice (3551246). **6.00** Home and Away (395842). **6.25** Wales Tonight (286133). **7.30** Somewhere in Wales - St Fagan's at Fifty (533). **10.30** HTV News (275736). **12.10** Jenny (5141953). **12.40** The Jerry Springer Show (7924088). **1.25** Film: The Super (9163953). **2.55** Box Office America (7082311). **3.25** Cybernet (86748804). **3.55** Murder, She Wrote (1800359). **4.45** Judge Judy (34797866). **5.05** ITV Nightscreen (1901885).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 6.25 West Weather (441620). **6.30** West Tonight (649). **7.30** Making of Mother Goose (533).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.25 This Morning (62898303). **12.15** Meridian News and Weather (9520007). **1.00** Shortland Street (1490378). **1.35** Home and Away (65548804). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (2060113). **3.20** Meridian News and Weather (2154397). **5.10** Home and Away (3551246). **5.37** Crimestoppers (864200). **6.00** Meridian Tonight (397). **6.30** Getaways (649). **7.30** Wildlife SOS (533). **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (275736). **12.10** Jenny (5141953). **12.40** The Jerry Springer Show (7924088). **1.25** Film: The Super (9163953). **2.55** Box Office America (7082311). **3.25** Cybernet (86748804). **3.55** Murder, She Wrote (1800359). **4.45** Judge Judy (34797866). **5.05** Freescreen (1901885).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.25 This Morning (62898303). **12.15** Westcountry News (9520007). **12.27** Illuminations (6227674). **1.00** Emmerdale (60842). **3.20** Westcountry News (2154397). **4.40** Worst Witch (6501561). **4.45** Worst Witch (1982945). **6.00** Westcountry Liva (64007). **7.30** Stately Steeples (533). **10.30** Westcountry News and Weather (275736). **12.10** Public Morals (5141953). **12.40** The Jerry Springer Show (7924088). **1.25** Film: The Super (9163953). **2.55** Box Office America (7082311). **3.25** Cybernet (86748804). **3.55** Murder, She Wrote (1800359). **4.45** Judge Judy (34797866). **5.05** ITV Nightscreen (1901885).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (6146755). **1.00** Home and Away (60842). **2.15** Emmerdale (653484). **3.20** Calendar News and Weather (2154397). **6.00** Calendar News and Weather (397). **6.30** Tonight (649). **7.30** Katie's Dream (533). **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (275736). **4.20** Jobfinder (833431).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (6146755). **3.20** North East News Headlines (2154397). **5.40** News; Weather (248587). **5.55** North East Weather (905656). **6.00** North East Tonight (64007). **7.30** Magnetic North (533). **10.30** North East News and Weather (275736).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 9.00 The Cosby Show (16721604). **9.30** Film: The House on Telegraph Hill* (61398007). **12.00** Caroline in the City (1674666). **12.30** Sesame Street (36736842). **1.00** Planed Plant (47238945). **1.30** Film: The African Queen (99193823). **4.00** Fifteen to One (56435484). **4.30** Ricki Lake (56431668). **5.00** Planed Plant: Uned 5 (45882718). **5.30** Countdown (56415620). **6.00** Newyddion (69394910). **6.10** Hano (95003007). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (11565754). **7.30** Newyddion (56432397). **8.00** Penblwydd Hapus: Birthday surprises with Arfon Haines Davies. An ex-prisoner of war is reunited with old friends (88931282). **8.30** Pam Fi Duw?: Drama series set in a Valleys comprehensive school. Something seems to be troubling Rhys. Will Prisi be successful on the rugby field? (11565709). **9.00** i dot (78629282). **10.00** Glorious (24435620). **11.05** Bob and Margaret (84165115). **11.35** Whose Line Is It Anyway? (69071674). **12.05** Dispatches (94472224). **1.05** Trial and Error (71344717). **2.05** Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

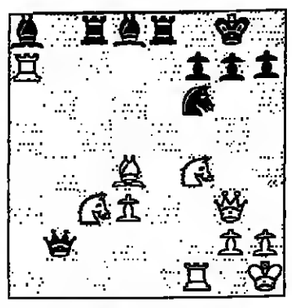
CHESS
JON SPEELMAN

IVAN SOKOLOV increased his lead to a full point in Hastings on Tuesday with a win against Tony Miles: Miles had sacrificed his h pawn in the opening but theo oeglected the chance to go into an inferior but tenable endgame and came under a withering attack. Meanwhile Matthew Sadler drew with Sergei Shipov and Emms drew with me; but Ponomariov won es Black against Saltaev end 17-year-old Laurent Fressinet shocked Jim Plaskett with thunder out of an apparently clear sky.

With two rounds to go, the scores were: Sokolov 5.5/7, Shipov 4.5, Sadler and Ponomariov 4, Emms and myself 3.5, Fressinet 3, Miles and Plaskett 2.5 and Saltaev 2. In a standard Sicilian, Plaskett delayed castling until attacking the d3 bisbop, so that White couldn't attack h7 starting with e5. When he got in ...e5xf4 Black appeared to have the advantage and the pawn sacrifice 22... d5 opened up the bishop's diagonal towards g2.

In the diegram, White has just taken aim at g7. Normally with three pawns in front of the king and plenty of defenders this should be no problem. So 27... Qb4? was quite natural until it got hit with the vicious 28 Rd7!! teeing up for 29 Rxd8! After the game, I looked briefly with Fressinet in search of a defence bere. The best I could see was 28... g6 29 Rxd8 Rcxd8 30 Bxf6 Rd6 but 31 Qh4 ought to win. Tbis is a position for mechines, though, and wben I consulted Fritz it suggested the splendid deflection 28... Re3!! 29 Qxe3 Nxd7. Now it wanted to win a pawn with 30 Qe8+ Nf8 31 Qxf7+ Kxf7 32 Nd5+. Instead 30 Bxg7 Kxg7 31 Nh5+ is very dangerous, but Kh6! may defend.

Going back to the diagram, if



27... Rxc3 28 Bxc3 Bxg2+ 29 Qxg2 Qxc3 is playable. I proposed instead 27... g6 28 Qg5 (not 28 Rb1? Qxb1+! 29 Nxb1 Rc1+ 30 Bg1 Bb6! 28... Rxc3 29 Bxc3 Bxg2+ 30 Qxg2 Qxc3 when g6 is very useful.

We dismissed 28... Nh5 in view of 29 Qh6 but then Bc7!! (Fritz) seems to work. One line trundles on 30 Ne4 Bxf4 31 Qxf4 Nxf4 32 Nf6+ 132 Bxb2 Bxe4 33 dxe4 is relatively best! Kh8 33 Bxb2 Bxg2+ 34 Kg1 Re2 35 Rxf4 Rxb2 36 Rf2 Rb7! with a big advantage.

White: L Fressinet
Black: J Plaskett

1 e4 c5	18 Nde2 Qd7
2 Nf3 e6	19 Ra5 e5
3 d4 cxd4	20 Qg3 Bd8
4 Nxd4 Nc6	21 Raa1 exf4
5 Nc3 Qc7	22 Nxf4 d5
6 Be3 a6	23 exd5 Bxd5
7 Bd3 b5	24 Rxa6 Ba8
8 f4 Bb7	25 Kh1 Qb7
9 Nb3 Nf6	26 Ra7 Qxb2
10 0-0 d6	27 Bd4 (see diagram) Qb4?
11 Qf3 Be7	28 Rd7!! Kf8
12 Qh3 Rc8	29 Nh5! Nxd7
13 a3 b4	30 Bxg7+ Ke7
14 axb4 Nxb4	31 Re1+ Ne5
15 Nd4 0-0	32 Qxe5+ 1-0
16 Ra4 Nxd3	
17 cxd3 Rfe8	

POKER
DAVID SPANIER

AMID A flurry of contradictory rumours coming out of Las Vegas, it now appears that the 1999 World Series of Poker, in truncated form, will be held at Binion's Horsesboe from 28 April to 12 May. The World Championship itself – whicb if it attracts the usual 300-plus players, paying $10,000 each to enter, yields a first prize of $1m – will be sbortened to three days.

It is not yet clear whether the Horseshoe's oew owner, Betty Behnen, will give the event tbe publicity and promotion which her brother Jack was so bappy to provide. He is down in Mississippi doing very nicely thank you, and has no intention of coming back to Vegas. The downtown area is suffering badly from e surfeit of casinos on the Strip and elsewbere. The very survival of old-style properties like the Horsesboe down in "glitter gulch" is under threat.

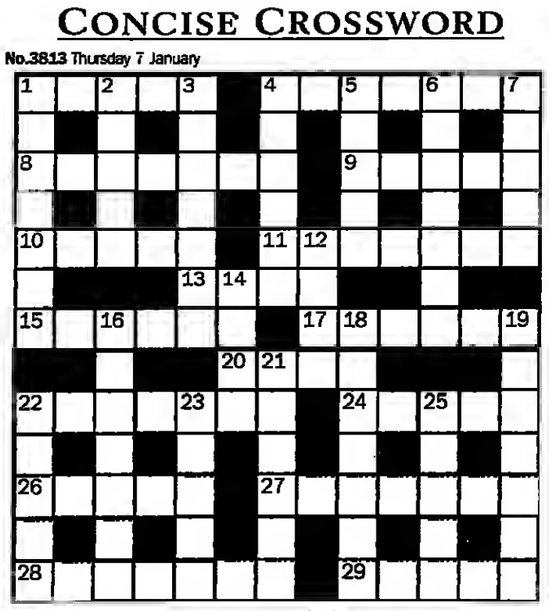
To more cheerful news: a lot of Britisb pleyers will be hitting the Vegas trail for the Rio's "Carnivale of Poker" from 10 to 28 January. The Rio is an all-suite resort, just behind the Mirage and Caesars. This annual tournament, with an estimated prize pool of $3.5m, is proving a major attraction. But the biggest event of the year may turn out to be the Tournament of Champions at the Orleans, from 26 to 28 July. Poker players will always go where the action is.

The European Poker Championship will be held, as last year, at the Club d'Aviation in Paris, 6-14 February, a fabulous venue for poker (104, Aveoue des Champs-Elysées). Three hours on the Eurostar and a taxi ride make it easy to reach. Hotels in Paris are not cbeap, *mais alors*, you are not going over there to sleep, are you? Another European event worth noting is the Spring Festival at the Concord Card Casino in Vienna, 18-28 March. How loog before they bet in euros, I wonder.

In Britain, the best hope for growth may lie in the approval of limited advertising by the casinos, as signalled by the Home Office. It will surely be belpful to inform the public, via local papers and listings magazines, that poker is on offer. Where one or two new pleyers come, their friends will follow. With e few more people learning the game, numbers will rise. The main reason new players do not venture inside casino card rooms, so I am told, is that they feel intimidated. Casino managements can do their bit. But the main effort is up to us, the players, to give newcomers e feeling they are welcome.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3813 Thursday 7 January



ACROSS
1 Perfume (5)
4 Fix (7)
8 China, Japan etc (3,4)
9 Written composition (5)
10 Heave (5)
11 Coming into being (7)
13 Rim (4)
15 Drink of the gods (6)
17 Ejected (6)
20 Relative (4)
22 Military fieldwork (7)
24 Bird of prey (5)
26 Small cat-like carnivore (5)
27 Disgusting (7)
28 Kind of frozen dessert (7)
29 Breathing organs (5)

DOWN
1 Crocus (7)
2 Heron (5)
3 Windpipe (7)
4 Standing in for (6)
5 Newspapers (5)
6 Examine (7)
7 Meeting (5)
12 Long period of time (4)
14 Dingy (4)
16 Dead body (7)
18 Implement (7)
19 Slimmers (7)
21 Furthest extent (6)
22 Go over again (5)
23 Extreme (5)
25 Gather (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Gnu, 3 Dolls (Needles), 7 Colonise, 8 Fail, 9 Nuts and bolts, 10 Sporty, 12 Defeat, 14 Scarlet fever, 18 Iota, 19 Renegade, 20 Scour, 21 Eke. DOWN: 1 Grown-up, 2 U-boat, 3 Dread, 4 Left off, 5 Saint, 6 Bigamy, 11 Tornado, 12 Defend, 13 Abridge, 15 Cross, 16 Error, 17 Vague.

ROBERT HANKS
TELEVISION REVIEW

BY THE TIME the average child is eight, he or she can expect to have witnessed upwards of 150 explicit sexual acts on television, some of them accompanied by disturbing levels of violence. But since nearly all of this activity is wildebeest on wildebeest, we tend not to worry – indeed, we probably even congratulate ourselves on giving the next generation a rounded, unsentimental view of nature. Animal sex is all right for Sunday teatimes; human sex is taboo until after 9pm. So, in one sense, we clearly don't find it hard to see a distinction.

The trouble starts when you try to talk about animal sex: if you want to keep the conversation approachable and non-technical, the only words available are the ones we use for humans. And, unless you're very careful, this can be misleading. Take Battle of the Sexes (BBC2). At the beginning of last night's opening programme, over a shot of two lions making bestial whoopee, the voiceover announced the recurring theme of the series as being the idea that "the burden of reproduction falls mostly on the female, and this inequality riddles the relationship between the sexes with mistrust". Oh really? What are we saying here: that lionesses sit at home fuming about being landed with the kids while his lordship swans off down the waterhole to mess around with his mates? To talk of inequality creating mistrust seems to imply that animals can imagine another way of doing things – that they nurture a dream of a fairer society, where lions and lionesses will strive together for the greater good.

This peculiar anthropomorphic strain kept cropping up. At times it was just plain funny, as when the male angler fish was characterised as the female's "lifelong sexual slave", a description which carried a whiff of baby oil and leather. Elsewhere it was more pernicious. Inviting us to admire the plumage of a mandarin drake, the narration cautioned us that they were "Beautiful – but displaying for sexual dominance," as if that fact (and you could hear the crack of the whip behind the phrase) somehow sullied their gorgeousness.

But the main problem was that this sort of language just got in the way of understanding. Take the case of the Californian side-blotched lizard. The males come in three distinct forms – the blue-throated ones, who are steady, dependable mates; the red-throated ones, who raid their territory and aggressively steal mates from the blue-throats; and the yellow-throats, who sneak past the blue-throats by pretending to be females. It was fascinating, but the narration was so busy sorting them out into "Lotharios" and "transvestites", that it never got round to the business of how these competing strategies might have evolved, and what makes them effective.

Mustn't grumble, though. The programme did have its share of amazing stories – like the male phascogale, a small marsupial whose single bout of frantic sexual activity ends in death from sheer exhaustion – and the BBC Natural History Unit's traditionally extraordinary camerawork. I particularly liked the red-capped manakin, a small Puerto Rican bird which actually performs a moonwalk to attract females. I rather lost the thread at this point, but I gather that once he has mated successfully, he takes the eggs back to his ranch where they play with chimpanzees and sleep in oxygen tents. Or am I anthropomorphising?

Of course, male sexual display has its part to play in human as well as bird life. Watching last night's documentary on the Castro revolution, **Fidel** (C4), it was obvious that he is an icon not so much because of his political acuity as because of his luxurious beard. The very week of the revolution, an American TV interviewer was asking whether he intended to bring his beard with him to the US, and, at that stage, it was a comparatively wispy, juvenile affectation.

As seems to happen with Castro, Estella Bravo's film was dazzled by his personality, and not over-inclined to be critical. We were told about Castro "overseeing personally every aspect of Cuban society", and cautioned that "human rights are in the eye of the beholder" – which sounds like a euphemistic way of describing a dictatorship. Still, one fact seems indisputable: America's blockade of Cuba is one of the longest sulks in modern history, a piece of political infantilism which has less to do with ideology or practical politics than with US politicians showing how macho they are. Why can't they just grow beards?

BBC1

5.00 Business Breakfast (29668). **7.00** News (T) (45567). **9.00** Kilroy (S) (T) (8830533). **9.45** The Vanessa Show (S) (T) (5376303). **10.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7179397). **11.00** Real Rooms (S) (7252674). **11.25** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (7159633). **11.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1455129). **12.00** Call My Bluff (S) (38736). **12.30** Battersea Dogs' Home (S) (T) (54620). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (46674). **1.30** Regional News and Weather (868B3533). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (T) (65550849). **2.05** Ironside (R) (7636823). **2.55** Going for a Song (S) (8736378). **3.20** The Weather Show (S) (T) (2232129).

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (8124638). **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop (S) (9238281). **3.55** Pocket Dragon Adventures (S) (T) (9234485). **4.05** Rugrats (S) (T) (6191552). **4.20** Home Farm Twins (S) (T) (6285945). **4.35** Short Changs (S) (T) (1895465). **5.00** Newsround (S) (T) (5632194). **5.10** See How They Run (S) (T) (6772849).

5.35 Neighbours. Amy is tired of living in Anne's shadow, by all accounts (S) (T) (274397).

5.00 News; Weather (T) (129).

6 PM

6.30 Regional News (T) (281).

7 PM

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson. Including a report on the astronomical price people are having to pay to see this year's total eclipse of the sun (S) (T) (1216).

7.30 EastEnders. Matthew is underwhelmed by his birthday celebrations (S) (T) (485).

8 PM

8.00 Vets in Practice. Trude makes a potentially fatal error in the operating theatre, while Craig faces an uphill battle to save a cat called Boris (S) (T) (4736).

8.30 Fat Free. A sort of dieting docu-soap, following three slimmers as they try varying methods of losing weight (S) (T) (9571).

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8397).

9 PM

9.30 CHOICE **Braveheart** (Mel Gibson 1995 US). Mel Gibson joins the Scottish nationalists to Oscar-strewn effect. See *Film of the Day*, below (S) (T) (78677200).

10 PM

12.20 Faces of Islam (S) (8969137).

12.40 FILM **A Professional Gun** (Sergio Corbucci 1970 It). Franco Nero and Jack Palance laugh uproariously and bare their teeth at each other in this suitably baroque pasta western about a gunslinger (Nero) hired to escort some silver to Texas during the Mexican Revolution (Followed by *Weather*) (492953).

2.25 Joins BBC News 24 (89538953). To 6am.

BBC2

7.00 Children's BBC: Open a Door (R) (5658891). **7.05** Teletubbies (S) (2105588). **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (2496755). **7.50** Blue Peter (S) (T) (3053620). **8.20** Tez-Mania (9021620). **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (9829705). **8.55** Open a Door (R) (6492842). **9.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (7308655). **9.10** The Phil Silvers Show (R) (6636485). **9.35** The Phil Silvers Show (R) (5016991). **10.00** Teletubbies (S) (29007).

10.30 FILM **Cervantes** (Vincent Sherman 1967 Fr/It/Sp). Horst Buchholz plays the 16th-century author of *Don Quixote* in this Euro mish-mash which is indeed quixotic, co-starring the likes of Gina Lollobrigida, Louis Jordan and Fernando Rey. But don't tune in if you want to know anything about the real Cervantes (95842).

12.30 Working Lunch (52282). **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (R) (S) (73841376). **1.10** The Arts and Crafts Hour (2859620).

2.10 World Darts. Action from yesterday's (good grief, not even today's) second-round matches from the Lakeside Country Club, introduced by Rey Stubbs. Commentary by Tony Green and John Part (S) (92515248).

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Deep Space Nine prepares to face a joint Dominion and Cardassian attack (S) (T) (276567).

5.45 Sliders. Sci-fi drama series about four people who can transport themselves to parallel universes. The Sliders finally have a chance to return home (S) (T) (670674).

7.30 First Sight. A topical investigation into an issue affecting London and the South-East (197).

8.00 The Travel Show. The best of the various travel shows returns with Juliet Morris in Gran Canaria, Jim White on a 48-hour break in Reykjavik, and a Cambridge family trading places with one from Paris (S) (2378).

8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines. Formula One in-shore powerboat racing and 500mph Reno air races in Nevada (R) (S) (T) (4113).

9.00 Meet the Ancestors. Archaeologist Julien Richards visits a team working on one of the most impressive Anglo-Saxon graveyards ever unearthed. It was discovered on a US airforce base in Suffolk (S) (6939).

9.30 CHOICE **Fat Files – a Horizon Trilogy.** The first of three documentaries on the nation's health and weight. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (T) (123046).

10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (R) (336002).

10.30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Paxman and the "new look" news programme (which, on Monday, seemed rather like the old version) (T) (976823).

11.15 World Darts. Ray Stubbs finds himself at the Lakeside Club in Surrey (Followed by *Skiing Forecast*) (S) (768026).

12.00 The Phil Silvers Show. Bilko enters the colonel in the services' golf tournament (R) (95779). To 12.30am.

ITV Carlton

9.00 GMTV (8035858).

9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (2297484). **10.25** This Morning (T) (62716755). **12.20** Your Shout (6146755). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (52216). **1.00** London Today (T) (60842). **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (9168910). **2.15** Home and Away (S) (T) (653484). **2.45** Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (652755). **3.15** ITN News Headlines (T) (2157464). **3.20** London Today (T) (2154397).

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2137620). **3.35** The Adventures of Dawdle (S) (6686842). **3.45** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (T) (8673378). **4.00** Lavender Castle (T) (6194649). **4.15** Dexter's Laboratory (T) (6738692). **4.40** Worst Witch (S) (T) (7270755).

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (3551246).

5.40 News; Weather (T) (978216).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (397).

6.30 Videotech. Margherita Taylor with the latest charts and "gossip" from the music world (S) (649).

7.00 Emmerdale. Zak takes a gamble with baby Belle, and Tricia arouses Betty's suspicions (S) (T) (3464).

7.30 First Edition. The winners and losers in the South East's railway sell-off, including the managing director of Thameslink facing up to frustrated passengers on one of his own trains. Oh, the sport (S) (T) (533).

8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Quite exciting this, in a frustrating kind of way (the contestants sometimes seem hand-picked not to be too bright) (S) (9804).

8.30 Neighbours from Hell. Another tranche of feuding neighbours and real-life distress for our delectation and amusement (T) (9939).

9.00 The Knock. A new series of customs yarns kicks off here, outside our offices at Canary Wharf, where a trio of dubious geezers have been gunned down on a boat. It's all to do with renegade Russian scientists smuggling plutonium to South Africa (S) (T) (7129).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (22533).

10.30 London Tonight (T) (275736).

10.40 Thursday Night Live. Nicky Campbell and Andrew Neil host the controversial live debate show (S) (7567020).

12.10 Public Morals (S) (5690088). **12.45** The Jerry Springer Show (7923359). **1.30** Pirate TV (61972). **2.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (9114934). **2.20** ITV at the Belfort Festival (6821779). **3.15** Cybernet (62348045). **3.40** Potty about Pets (14457224). **4.10** Soundtrax (R) (S) (60605088). **4.20** ITV Nightscreen (8334311). **5.30** ITN Morning News (83934). To 6am.

Channel 4

5.00 Sesame Street (12378). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (S) (65397). **9.00** The Cosby Show (R) (T) (2867151).

8.35 FILM **The House on Telegraph Hill** (Robert Wise 1951 US). Intriguing *film noir* starring Valentina Cortese as a concentration camp survivor who takes on the identity of a dead fellow inmate (the wealthy mother of a San Franciscan boy). Back in the postwar States, she mixes it with the child's guardian, suggestively played by Richard Basehart (T) (44346200).

11.15 Route to Success (6655842). **11.30** Here's One I Made Earlier (5200). **12.00** Sesame Street (25674). **12.30** Bewitched (50858). **1.00** Pet Rescue (68484).

1.30 FILM **Untamed** (Henry King 1955 US). Susan Hayward and Tyrone Power romance each other against a CinemaScope South Africa in this vivid costume epic about the Great Boer Trek (T) (53216).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (755). **4.00** Fifteen to One Highlights (262). **4.30** Countdown (1889804). **4.55** Ricki Lake (S) (4990262). **5.30** Pet Rescue (S) (T) (246).

5.00 Dishes. Cooking and dating game show as three contestants compete against the clock to create a dish that will win them a dinner date at a top restaurant (939).

5.30 Hollyoaks. Kate decides she wants revenge (S) (T) (991).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. Revamped news show including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (475736).

7.55 Cuban Faces. More everyday tales of Cuban life (361465).

8.00 Secret History. Why was the sinking in the Norwegian Sea of aircraft carrier *HMS Glorious* and her two escort destroyers in June 1940 covered up and the official report stamped "closed until 2041"? The relatives of the 1,500 seamen who perished demand some answers in this repeat investigation (R) (S) (T) (2007).

9.00 CHOICE **Dispatches.** Male victims of domestic violence speak out. See *Investigation of the Day*, below (T) (5571).

10.00 Rising Damp (R) (T) (26303).

10.30 Cold Turkey. Fly-on-the-wall look at the office Christmas party, featuring a bash at a five-star hotel, a party in Sheffield, a hairdressers' hen party and a celebration funded by some cost-conscious accountants (257200).

11.05 Ally McBeal. The pilot episode, for those who never learnt the plot of this nippy sitcom (R) (S) (T) (951129).

12.00 4 Later: Oz (5911972). **1.05** 4 Later: Vida (3444311). **1.40** 4 Later: Tableau d'amour (R) (8354243). **1.45** 4 Later: For the Love of Faith (709953). **2.45** 4 Later: The Connivers (7000717).

3.10 FILM **4 Later: The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit** (Nunnally Johnson 1956 US). Gregory Peck and Jennifer Jones are reunited from *Duel in the Sun* as a stressed ad exec and his wife (34077427). To 5.50am.

Channel 5

5.00 5 News and Sport (S) (7068113). **7.00** WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (9236216). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (285179). **7.35** Wimzie's House (R) (9967129). **8.00** Havakazoo (R) (S) (1227620). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (1229991). **9.00** Animal House (2903303). **8.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (4932858). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6888465). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2284113). **11.10** Leeza (R) (S) (2171939). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (1237007). **12.30** Family Affairs (S) (T) (9003736). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (9235587). **1.30** The Roseanne Show (9002007). **2.00** 100 Per Cent (S) (6423007). **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (4615571).

3.30 FILM **92 Grosvenor Street** (Sheldon Larry 1985 US). Hal Holbrook plays an American officer stationed in London during the Second World War who gets involved in a spying mission to occupied Norway. That's his excuse – what's yours? Dull, anachronistic yarn co-starring David McCallum and Meryam D'Abo (9799262).

5.20 Sunset Beach. Francesca prays the heist will be successful. So that's what she's doing (6248991).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5457216).

6.30 Family Affairs. A confession makes Chris wonder whether Jamie is his child (S) (T) (5375668).

7.00 5 News Including First on Five. Kirsty Young explains the day's events (S) (T) (6427623).

7.30 Champions of the Wild. Profile of conservationist Courtland Perret, whose Kenyan ranch is home to more than 100 black and white rhinos (S) (T) (5364552).

8.00 Survivor. How to survive in the desert, helped by the personal testimonies of those who have had to (R) (S) (T) (5695820).

9.00 FILM **The Ultimate Lie** (Larry Shaw 1996 US). That Channel 5 would bring us top Hollywood movies? Nope – it seems that married school head Blair Brown has been misbehaving with prostitutes. And then – and this is a nice twist – the latest girl sent to him turns out to be his own daughter (S) (T) (52308804).

10.40 Sex and Shopping. A German porn entrepreneur prepares to shoot a video which is set in public places (S) (3575823).

11.10 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (8129129). **11.50** Live and Dangerous (continued) (S) (17614330). **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (R) (S) (3190088). **5.30** 100 Per Cent (8356363). To 6am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

FAT FILES (9.30pm BBC2, *right*) Wouldn't you have guessed that there might be a genetic cause for obesity? Not all obesity, mind, but some people who blame their weight problems on their "metabolism" might have a point in thinking that their biology is the problem. It's to do with a recently discovered hormone called leptin, apparently, which travels through the blood to the brain where it turns off the feelings of hunger: No leptin, no feeling of having had a good meal. It's not quite as easy as adding leptin to the blood, however, as Wall Street (which pumped millions into the hormone) has since discovered to its cost. The first in a *Horizon* trilogy on the science of fat.

INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

DISPATCHES (9pm C4, *right*) The biggest ever survey of male victims of female violence – or "husband battering" – talking in depth to 100 men who have been kicked, knifed, battered with saucepans, had hairclips jammed in their ears and been smothered with pillows while they slept. The abuse goes on for years, apparently, and begs the questions why (a) the physically larger men didn't hit back, or (b) they didn't just walk out? The reasons will be familiar to female victims of male violence. "Because I loved her," say the husbands of these aggressive control freaks. "I thought I could change her. Instead, she changed me."

FILM OF THE DAY

BRAVEHEART (9.30pm BBC1, *right*) Five Oscars for what is essentially a rather sloppy costume adventure? Perhaps only John Toll's photography was worthy of the gong, because otherwise this is heavily old-fashioned piece of Hollywood workmanship (what is the average age of those Academicians again?). Mel Gibson co-produced, directed and stars as William Wallace, the Scots freedom fighter and scourge of those effeminate English. Patrick McGoohan is a suitably bloodless, boo-hiss villain as Edward 1, while Sophie Marceau tempts poor Willie. *Braveheart* saves its best until last, however, with a gut-wrenchingly realistic battle scene.

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday, 7 January 1999

First, catch your wild boar

But try not to attract too much attention, warns Jane Matthews

HERE'S A GREAT temptation to sneer t tha pile of books on Jackie Percival'a esk. For the past 15 years, since she rst stumbled on a Victorian anthoioy of household bints, the OU history tudent has been n collector of this ype of good housekeeping guide.

The genre is still familiar: tucked way behind modern picture cookooks produced for people to salivate ver rather than cook with; thay have ard covera in beige or sage; tiny text n poor quality paper; and a tona lternating between the twee and tha lctatorial for an audience with aa uch spirit aa a damp mop.

If we consult them at all, it is in the ame mood of disbelief as museum visors regard medieval instruments of orture. Did our anceatora really pend three days dismembaring and lazing a boar'a head, than carefully einstating its eyes and tusks ao it ould take pride of place on tha table? ow could *our grandmothers* have elieved that to draw attention to emselves in the street by laughing loud – even in 1911 – waa virtually the quivalent of bitching up thair skirts nd sticking a red lamp in tha window? ccording to *The Woman's Book* pubshed that year, "It is not (a lady's) aim attract the eye of the crowd, hut to scape its notice".

As her cotlection has grown, Jacke has become increasbigly unwilting imply to dismiss bookx of household hints and tips as comfortable glimpses f a way of life – and a way of womnhood – which has disappeared.

She says: "I do enjoy their cosineaa. hey are all vary insular and go on in oughly *the same vein about how good* was to be at boma. There is very little about marriage or divorce apart om the laws governing them. None eals with death, though there la omething about laying out a body. len appear mainly in the adverts, or oncerned with bills, gardens and ara, but never anything aa lowly as a *hopkeeper. And babies appear as if by* nagic after you've got married."

However, ahe is also convinced that he books have a serious historical alue in their own right: not because hey are worth much – like moat nass-market women's literature the rade does not valuc them and she has ever had to pay more thnn £2 for a olume – hut aa an aatonishingly *detailed record of what real life looked* and felt like for ganerations of woman over tha last century.

Says Jackie: "We were taught very dry economic history at school, but when you atart to read these books and think about tha home – how people lived, how mucb it cost them to live – it fleahes out those outlines. It's easy to dismiss the books as silly and frivolous, and yet there were so many published over such a long period they must have heen a part of every homa.

"Three years ago I atudied family and community history with the OU and ona of the things I took from it was the value of original source materials to pieca the paat together. I have never *come across any text which* describes what home life was lika for women in tha 1930a from the women's point of view – and yet it is all here."

Which explains why the texts are now spread on tha desk of her Gosport homa. Inspired partly hy her OU course, Jackia hopes to fill that particular gap in tha litterature.

Undoubtedly, her *own* home would have the authors of her collection pulling on their perfectly laundered white gloves and making their excuses. She is not especially interested in housekeeping in its own right: apart from an odd phone call from friends wanting an outlandish recipe, the only time aha can recall using any of the *hints and tips waa an experiment with* a 1940a recipe for oil to use on clock mechanisms.

Jackie is even more dismissive of the 1990s equivalent: the homaa and gardens' glosalea groaning on newaagents' shelvea are as packed with perfect picturea of perfect homea – and as convinced of their readers' *need for proper guidance – as anything* in her collection. She can't avoid the conclusion that things may not have changed aa much aa we'd like to think. Than it waa social death to find cockroachca in the kitcben. Now wa worry about listeria, and race out to buy new kitchen tools made of aomething clever and scientific that cuts down the risk of household germs.

Then, if a hrida bought the wrong brand of china her friends would whisper among themselves; now, according to the bomes magazinea, if you baven't got a chroma cafetiere your friends won't bothar to call at all.

Ona of the ironias of Jackie's collection is that it showa how – even if the datalls bave changed – our obsessions remain the same: keeping clean and keeping control; doing, saying, buying and being the right thing.

Skim through women's magazines from the 1950a and you find sketches of models with tbe sama non-existent figures – atraight nacks, straight lags and terrifying bone structure – as provoke beated debsie today.

Tha messaga *connecting us with our* mothers and their mothers is that whatever else may change, we're atill not good enough. At least not without the help of a guida to living. There is a positive aide to this. Flicking through the guides, there is that sama delightful sensa of recognition which comes from spotting a toy from our *childhood in an antique shop window.*

Our childhoods may have passed, but an advertisement for sn Ascot wall heater, a recipa for junket, and patterns for traycloths embroidered with hollyhocks, dissolve the borders of memory and the past lives again. Not the past of today's instant DIYatore nostalgia but, Jackie points out, *an age in which* tha *original owners* of her books worked a 16-hour day - even if they had aervants, for then they had to learn how to managa people.

"In ona book I counted that you neaded somathing like 21 different typas of brush to keep your bouse clean. Tha guidas assuma you will do everything for yourself (one particularly *hefty volume takes the reader* atep by atep through everythlog from making a loom to dismantling a car axla) and there are vast amounts of craft stuff, including n disgusting section on how to make an ornament from fish bones," Jackie observes.

It's just poaalbla that the collection paints a picture of ideal homes nnd housokeeping as idealised as today's magazlnes. The next stage in her reaearch is to explore how seriously these household guides were taken by tba women who owned them.

"I have written to a couple of magazines to try and find out from their older readers how well used the guides were. My own have got cookery splashes on them so they must at least have used those pages, but it'a possible that they may have been given as wedding presents to successive generations and were never looked ot.

"When you read tbc books yon osk yourself how *they would ever have* found the time to do all the things the authors expected of them. The books would certainly have made the readers feel inadequate, but than women have always been good at that."

Meanwhile, she may bs starting her own *trend, for it's become noticeably* harder to add to the collection in recent years. Tha most likely explanation is not that Jackle'a appearanca in print hss sparked a rush on a new collectible – but that editors and publishers are now snapping up their own original source materiol so thot they can rnn authentic feutures on how to stencil our homcs to deoth.

Jackie Percival: her collection has a serious purpose

The essential guide to transporting a piano up-country

BY FAR tha most interesting section of a housekeeping manual is that devoted to hints and tips: readers were bombarded with odvico on cleaning, eradicating and preserving, and the advice ranged from the eminently senalble, via the mildly eccentric, to the seriously weird.

We are still bomberded with advice, hut the emphasis today has shifted to acquiring and embellishing. But there seems to be little spark to housekeeping theso days, compared to the 1930s when housework could be bracingly described as "a mixture of scientific skill and great fun" (*Home of Today*, published by the *Daily Express* in tbe 1930s).

Obviously a return to the days of lead paint, blackbeetlea and butlar sinks is not advisable, but a glance through a pre-war housekeeping manual should be mandatory for homeowners today who want to adopt Edwardian or 30s styles of interior decoration.

For them, and for other interested readars, here's *my list of ten favourite tips from my col*lection, dating from thc 1870a through to the 1970a:

However bad it may be to be poor, it is much worse to look poor.
Nelson's Home Comforts, 1893

To make a novel oven: a biscuit tin, with three holea punched in the top, and a meat-stand for a shelf, can be used on any *gas ring*. "Very *useful* if living in rooms".
You and I Cookery Book

Cheap furniture polish: roots, flowers and leaves of dandelions, covered with water and boiled for half an hour.
ibid

Soft soap: 8 quarts water, 3lh dripping, 2lb black ash, 1/2lb rcsin. Boil to a jelly, and cut into cakes when nearly cold.
Best Way

Housekeeping without a maid: do not commence by doing *too* much before breakfast. Unless one has been accustomed to early rising, it is apt to knock one up for the rest of the day.
The Woman's Book (1911)

For home made washing powder: mix together 1/4lb powered soap, 1lb soda crystals (which have been dried in ths oveo) and 1/4lb ssl ammonlsc.
Cookery Illustrated

Weakness of the knees: paint them very lightly every night with iodine liniment.
Star Prize Recipes

Transportbig a piano upcountry: if the road is only a camel-road, tha piano must be carried by coolies, of whom 14 or 16 will be naaded.
Complete Indion Housekeeper and Cook (1893)

To make a lifebelt - take 1¾ yards of strong jean, double and divide into nine compartments. Fill with fine cork cuttbigs, work eyelet holes into bottom of each compartment, let water drain out, and attach neckband and waiststring of stout bootweb
Star Prize Recipes.

To clean white wings: make a paste of French chalk and naphtha of the consistency of cream. Free the wings from dust and wipa with a rag dipped in spirits of wine. Spread the cream over the wings and allow it to remain for 12 hours. Then brush off.
Cookery Illustrated

(I'm afraid I have no idea what this lost tip is about.)

JACKIE PERCIVAL

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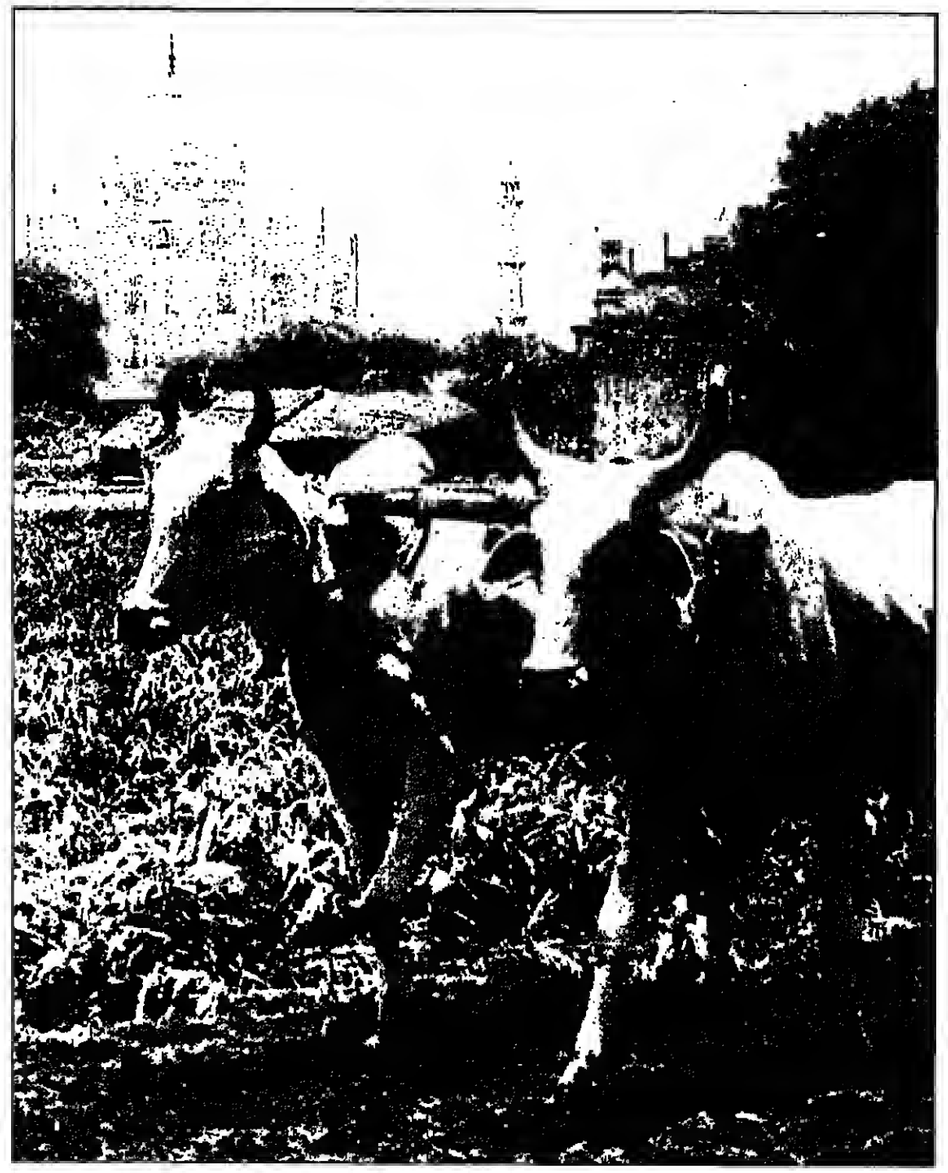
OPEN EYE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The Open University



The Europe of the future?

Forecasting into the next millennium

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday, 7 January 1999

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FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

SIR JOHN DANIEL

What is special about graduates?

THE PERIOD since the 1992 HE Act restructured our higher education system has been marked by growth, change and introspection. As universities have attracted more people and absorbed more public money, questions about the purpose and benefits of higher learning have become more pressing.

The aims of universities are usually stated as teaching, research and service to the community. Graduates are universities' most important output. So a simple way to judge the value of universities is to ask what is special about graduates. How does a university degree change people?

People have tried to answer this question in various ways. Patricia Lunneborg, for her engaging books *OU Women* and *OU Men*, interviewed a very diverse set of OU graduates and recorded their comments about how university study had changed them.

I was particularly impressed by one graduate, who remarked with a mixture of satisfaction and exasperation that after doing an OU degree he could no longer see fewer than six sides to any question. That's a good description of the skill of critical analysis that has always figured prominently in the purposes of academic study.

Other researchers have used questionnaires to ask large numbers of graduates about the effects of doing a degree. One such survey last year produced a rather surprising result. The responses, which came from graduates of all types of institution, were broadly similar except to one question. Asked how much university study had changed their lives, OU graduates reported much greater change than graduates from other universities.

At first this seemed to me an odd result because OU students tend to be older, and lead more settled lives, than conventional graduates. But I suppose that really explains the difference.

Young full-time students, who are in transition to adulthood, find it difficult to distinguish the impact of degree study from the general process of maturation. OU graduates can identify more readily the particular effects of study on their lives. The most common word they use, when they describe these changes to me at degree ceremonies, is confidence.

Employers find graduates lack some of the skills needed to manage today's uncertain world

A better understanding of the world gives us greater confidence in everyday life and newly acquired competencies make us more confident at work.

Much of the debate about the outcomes of degree study now focuses on the notions of competencies and skills. In the UK the Dearing Report proposed that as well as cognitive skills, an understanding of methodologies and a capacity for critical analysis, graduates must acquire a set of key skills of general relevance. These skills relate to communication (oral and written); the application of number; information technology, working with others; improving one's own learning performance; and problem solving. There are many ways of grouping graduate competencies. In their book *The Bases of Competence: Skills for Lifelong Learning and Employability*, the Canadian authors Evers, Rush and Berdrow identify the essential graduate skills as managing self; communicating; managing people and tasks; and mobilising innovation and change. They find that students and graduates are most confident in managing themselves and communicating. They are much less sure of their skills for managing people and tasks and for mobilising innovation and change, although those skills are much sought after by employers.

Employers' perceptions of the skills of graduate staff in several English-speaking countries have been studied by Professor David Robertson of Liverpool John Moores University. He presented his conclusions, *What employers really, really want*, at the recent conference of the Society for Research in Higher Education. Employers are fairly happy with graduates' skills in communication, disciplinary knowledge, teamwork, IT, and in interpersonal relations and leadership.

What they find lacking are the complexity skills that graduates need to operate successfully in today's global environment. Progress is not linear, so people must be comfortable managing ambiguous situations where many events and trends are interlinked. This means living with provisionality and emergence – so you can make decisions even when you know that new developments such as electronic commerce may invalidate them.

Employers also note weaknesses in cross-cultural sensitivity. Other cultures and ethical frameworks must be seen as legitimate, not merely different. Complexity skills are particularly difficult to express in the precise language of competencies. But graduates who can see six sides to a question have already developed considerable competence in complexity.

Their next step is to learn to make choices and to operate confidently while maintaining a spirit of scepticism.

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Women will be

I HAVE SEEN the future – and it's looking good. This could be the slogan for the Futures Observatory, probably one of the most ambitious projects in scientific stargazing ever attempted. Using a variety of statistical, analytical and other investigative methods, the Futures Observatory aims to predict accurately the state of things in or around the year 2020.

Led by David Mercer of the OU Business School and with input from more than 1,000 individuals and organisations – including the Strategic Planning Society and Demos, a highly-regarded think tank, the Futures Observatory is not pie in the sky, but a serious undertaking which aims to provide those in positions of power and influence with a key to the future. It is a continuation of his earlier Millennium Project, a five-year programme seeking to paint an accurate picture of what is to come.

The findings cover everything from space exploration to the family, and are the subject of an entire book, *Future Revolutions, A Comprehensive Guide to Life and Work in the Next Millennium*. The Futures Observatory looks around 25 years ahead – roughly to 2020 or 2025, although some forecasts extend to the middle of the next century and beyond.

Essentially, the view is highly optimistic – life will be better in nearly all respects. We will be healthier, live longer, enjoy more control our own destinies and a more peaceful and prosperous planet. Too good to be true? *Open Eye* asked David Mercer for more pointers on life in the next century:

"It may come be known as the 'woman's century'. We will see women, who are better suited to the modern workplace, coming into their own and taking more of the jobs, certainly at junior and middle management level. We will also see the spread of 'feminine' values – co-operation rather than competition – throughout society.

"We may be moving into recession now but we will soon be over it, and be moving into a real boom time. There will be a major skills shortage, and this will have implications for the relationship between companies and employees. Organisations will have to market themselves as much to their own employees as to their customers.

"There has already been talk about the retirement age being raised to 70. It will have to, as we will need these people in the labour force.

"The European Union will become more important, as the first empire built, not on military conquest, but on a political ideal. It is potentially the world government of the future. The United Nations is stuck in a time-warp, somewhere at the end of the second world war. There are other regional groupings emerging like Mercosur in Latin America, Nafta in north America and Asean in south east Asia, but the EU is far ahead of these politically.

"One prediction, that India may join the EU, caused some surprise, but 20 years ahead India may want to join one of these groupings and enjoy the economic benefits. She could go either west or east. She might look in the direction of Asia Pacific, but it is unlikely she would want to join a group containing China.

"Despite the rise of these big groupings power will be held at an individual level. The writer Francis Fukuyama has predicted the 'end of

Time to celebrate as you graduate

CONGRATULATIONS to all who received good news over the holidays (and commiserations to those who heard that they need to study a little longer).

Graduates will be invited to attend eve-of-graduation dinners associated with this year's awards ceremonies - most of them located handily to the place of graduation.

Where appropriate the dinners are directly linked with Choice Hotels who already offer special accommodation rates for OU graduands attending the following day's ceremonies.

Organised by The OU LINK, in partnership with the Association of OU Graduates (AOUG), the OUBS MBA Alumni Association, and the Students Association (OUSA), the dinners will cost about £20 per head and will celebrate 25 years of graduations, 30 years of the OU and its partnership with the BBC, and 250,000 awards.

The actual date of the University's receiving its Charter is 23 April, which is coincidentally Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day. That evening the Vice-Chancellor will be hosting the OU's first event for graduates in the US, in Los Angeles.

Depending on the location, dinner will be followed either by a guest speaker or a disco (or, possibly, by both).

Guests and former graduates are of course welcome, and geography is no restriction – if you will happen to be in LA, or Singapore, or Brussels on the appropriate day, you will be welcome. But please book your tickets in advance.

More information by phone on 01908 655751 or by post from the address on this page. The venues are:

9 April	Harrogate;
16 April	Nottingham;
23 April	Exeter;
23 April	Los Angeles;
30 April	Edinburgh;
7 May	Birmingham;
7 May	Burnley;
14 May	Cardiff;
15 May	Dublin;
21 May	Eastbourne;
4 June	Singapore;
11 June	Carrickfergus;
11 June	Newcastle upon Tyne;
19 June	Central London;
29 June	Milton Keynes;
9 July	Crystal Palace;
11 Sept	Brussels.

05:45 am The Politics of Equal Opportunity (D103/6)
How the American Civil Rights movement influenced the English Sex Discrimination and Race Relations Acts.
06:35 am The True Geometry of Nature (MS221/2)
How an intriguing mistake by one of the world's greatest mathematicians is leading to real commercial applications.

Thursday 21 January

00:30 am Passing Judgements (A103/7)
Exploring today's view of the Roman Games as bloodthirsty and voyeuristic, with a look at their importance in Roman society.
01:00 am The British Family: Sources and Myths (A103/8)
From a Roman tombstone to a 20th century movie, how valuable is historical evidence in the study of the family?
01:30 am The French Revolution: Impact and Sources (A103/9)
Historical evidence helps paint a vivid picture of events leading up to, during and after the Revolution.
05:45 am TV – Images, Messages & Ideologies (D103/9)
What sort of messages broadcasters are transmitting through television news and soap operas.
06:35 am A Language for Movement (MU120/8)
Looking at how maths had a hand in the creation of an 16th century gavotte, a ballet, and an African dance routine.

Fri 22 January

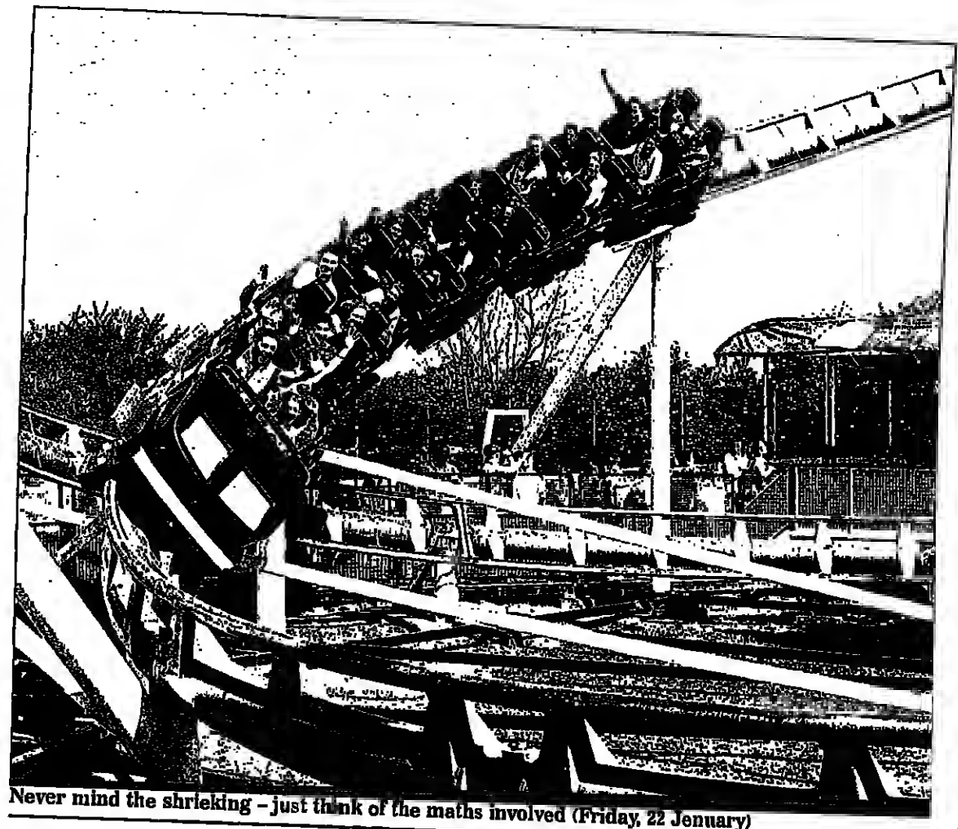
00:30 am Hotel Hilbert (MS221/3)
The strange mathematical world of infinity at a hotel which is always full but still takes in guests.
01:00 am The 1997 Election – Traditions, Failures & Futures (D103/17)
Was the outcome of the 1997 election a turning-point in British political history, and what comes next under New Labour?
01:30 am Rousseau in Africa: Democracy in the Making (A103/10)
Finding out how recent events in South Africa reflect philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau's theories on human nature.
05:45 am Questions of National Identity (D103/10)
What makes a person feel English, Scottish or British and how is a sense of national identity constructed?
06:35 am Designer Rides: The Jerk and the Jounce (MST121/3)
How maths puts the thrill into rollercoaster rides.

Monday 25 January

05:45 am Age and Identity (D103/11)
How does growing older affect the way we think about ourselves and our role in the community?
06:35 am Deadly Quarrels (MU120/6)
How two very different individuals turned to mathematics to analyse conflict and its causes during the First World War.

Tuesday 26 January

00:30 am Waiting Their Turn – Minorities in a Democracy (A103/11)
What options are available to people who feel their views aren't represented in Parliament?
01:00 am Art – A Question of Style (A103/12)
Examining paintings by Louis David and Casper Friedrich to discover what the labels 'Classical' and 'Romantic' mean in art.
01:30 am Putting on the Style (A103/13)
Songs from the Romantic and Classical periods reveal some essential differences between these styles.
05:45 am Regions Apart? (D103/12)
Two businesses, one in Sunderland, the other in London, demonstrate how different UK regions relate to the global economy.
06:35 am Building by Numbers (MU120/7)
From facade to room dimensions – how some of the most beautiful buildings rely on maths for their proportions.



Never mind the shrieking – just think of the maths involved (Friday, 22 January)

Wednesday 27 January

00:30 am What is Religion? (A103/14)
Members of the Hindu, Jewish, Catholic, Anglican and Muslim communities in Liverpool discuss the differences and similarities between their faiths.
01:00 am Looking for Hinduism in Calcutta (A103/15)
The richness of Hindu life and worship in India's most diverse city.
01:30 am Wallace in Wales (A103/16)
How Wallace's early life in Wales prompted his discovery of the theory of natural selection – independently of Charles Darwin.
06:45 am The Traditions & The Environment (D103/14)
What's new and what's traditional about present day thinking on the environment?
06:36 am The Spiral of Silence (MST121/4)
Why opinion polls failed to predict the result of the 1992 General Election.

Thursday 28 January

00:30 am Was Anybody There? (A103/17)
Tables shook, people levitated and seances were all the rage in Victorian society. Surely mediums couldn't trick rational men of science?
01:00 am The Argument from Design (A103/16)
Scientists discuss whether their theories about the origins of the universe are compatible with a religious view.
01:30 am A Living Doll: A Background to Shaw's Pygmalion (A103/19)
Examining the theatrical, political and very personal forces which influenced George Bernard Shaw when he created his flower girl Eliza Doolittle.
05:46 am Social Scientists at Work (D103/15)
How does social science help us understand football hooliganism, the economy and attitudes in Northern Ireland?
06:35 am The Rainbow (MU120/4)
A mathematical investigation into the properties of this subtle and often misunderstood phenomenon.

Friday 29 January

00:30 am Euripides's Medea (A103/20)
Actress Fiona Shaw leads workshops which show how Euripedes's brutal and violent play can be performed to make sense to modern audiences.
01:00 am The Myth of Medea (A103/21)
In recreating Euripides's Greek tragedy today, what are the tensions between the conventions of ancient and modern dramatic performances?
01:30 am Myth and Music (A103/22)
Composer Judith Weir explains why she wrote a series of works based on Scottish folktales about people who have disappeared mysteriously.
05:45 am Wrapping Up the Themes (D103/16)
What themes link *Eastenders*, Victoria Wood, Chernobyl and Jasper Carrott? Stuart Hall and Robert Robinson present some questions and answers.
06:35 am Refining the View (MS221/4)
How helpful maths can be when erecting bamboo scaffolding or monitoring the survival of an endangered dolphin population.

Saturday 30 January

06:20 am Strategy on the Screen (B692/2)
Two computer systems which claim to inspire a more creative approach in company boardrooms.
07:35 am Open Advice – The Three Degrees (FOA095/17)
So you've got a first degree, what's next? Students share experiences of doing higher degrees.

Sunday 31 January

06:10 am Visioning in Action (S862/3)
How the workforce at an aluminium plant in Norway were helped to find a picture of what the future could hold for their company.
06:35 am Edison – The Invention of Invention (T302/1)
This way Thomas Edison set about developing new products was perhaps even more important than the inventions themselves.

Monday 1 Feb

05:45 am Two Research Styles (DSE202/1)
Two methods used by psychologists to study people's behaviour.
06:10 am The Qualification Chase (EU208/25)
When it comes to exams, why do academic subjects seem to have a higher status than vocational qualifications?

Tuesday 2 February

00:30 am Open Advice – A Different Way of Learning (INTOU/1)
From home study to group tutorials – OU students get more than just a piece of paper.
01:00 am Mosaico Hispanico (L140/1)
Members of the growing Spanish-speaking community in Los Angeles describe their roots around the world and life in the city.
01:30 am Picturing the Genders (A103/24)
Examining the traditional view of art history, in which men do the painting while women do the posing.
05:45 am Serjeant Musgrave at the Court (A319/9)
Author John Arden, director Lindsay Anderson and actor Ian Bannen talk about the first production of Serjeant Musgrave's Dance.
06:10 am The Encyclopedie (A206/1)
The great 16th century French encyclopedia, based on a vision of a rational society served by science and technology.
06:35 am Dimanche en Anjou (L120/1)
Spend a quiet Sunday relaxing with the people of Anjou in France.

Wednesday 3 February

00:30 am The Arch Never Sleeps (MST207/1)
How massive structures like Gothic cathedrals, which were built of stone using very little mortar, have survived for eight centuries.
01:00 am Soaring Achievements (MST207/2)
Following a glider race above the French countryside to discover the mathematics behind unpowered flight.
01:30 am The Secret of Sporting Success (MST207/3)
To be the best at any sport, you need the secret of success – and maths can help find it!
05:45 am Climates of Opinion (T102/500)
How accurate are the global warming facts reported by the mass media?
06:35 am Just Seventeen – The Geometry of Patterns (M336/1)
There may seem to be limitless patterns on wallpaper – but mathematically speaking there are only seventeen.

Thursday 4 February

00:30 am Sex and the Single Gene? (SK220/1)
Recent research suggests a possible link between homosexuality and genes. What might this mean for society's attitudes?
01:00 am The Art of Breathing (SK220/2)
An exploration of the intimate relationships between breathing and heartrate, physiological demands, emotions and the conscious mind.
01:30 am Galapagos – Research in the Field (S324/00)
How animal physiologists are working to help ensure the survival of the unique fauna of the Galapagos Islands.
05:45 am Reindeer in the Arctic (S365/1)
Two species of reindeer which have evolved to survive in extremely cold environments.
06:10 am Why Me? Why Now? (U205/1)
The variety of attitudes that people have towards health and illness.
06:35 am Brief Encounter (U205/15)
Medical consultations from both the doctor's and patients' perspective.

All programmes are on BBC2
We regret that Videoplus codes have not been issued for this month's programme guide

APPOINTMENTS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR 1-2 WEEKS' RESIDENTIAL TEACHING WORK THIS YEAR?

Residential School Tutorial Staff

The Open University is looking for people who have at least a first degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject, have either had experience of, or are interested in, adult learning and can adopt a facilitative student centred approach to teaching. Appointments are offered for the Open University's Easter and Summer residential schools in 1999. The schools will be held between 3 July and 28 August. Accommodation is provided, usually in standard undergraduate rooms, and you will need to be fully resident at the site throughout your appointment. Schools will be held at Bath, Durham, Heriot Watt, Keele, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Reading, Stirling, Sussex and York universities. Most schools run at only a few of the sites and you would normally be appointed to the site nearest to your home.

Education

The residential school forms part of the course Effective Leadership and Management in Education, which is a module within the University's MA in Education. You are expected to hold at least a master's degree or an equivalent qualification and to have relevant experience and expertise in this area. Experience of facilitating team working would also be desirable.

Arts

The foundation course covers art history and philosophy grouped under the theme of 'READING AND ANALYSIS'; history, history of science and religious studies grouped under the theme heading of 'CONTEXT'; classical studies, literature and music grouped under the theme heading of 'INTERPRETATION AND PERFORMANCE'. The residential school offers a computing option and for that we would like to appoint arts people who are computer literate. Higher level courses cover art history, history, music, literature and philosophical aesthetics.

Social Sciences/ Psychology/Microeconomics

The foundation course introduces students to key analytical and theoretical issues in social science through examining everyday questions and issues with which they will be familiar and then building up from these. It introduces key concepts in politics, economics, sociology, psychology and geography. At residential school students follow three 'modules' relating to different parts of the course. Tutors will be in pairs except for a Library Module. A commitment to interdisciplinary teaching/learning is essential together with a relevant degree/experience tutoring introductory social science.

Higher level courses cover introductory psychology, cognitive psychology, and microeconomics. The relevant specialist degree is important, but there is an equal emphasis on a commitment to team teaching and supporting learning within a structured programme.

Mathematics

All three maths residential schools form part of Level 2 courses. The pure mathematics course covers groups, linear algebra, analysis and geometry.
The applied mathematics course covers mechanics, methods and modelling; it is desirable for tutors to be familiar with Mathcad 7 or a similar computer algebra system. The third course is an introduction to calculus.

Science

To teach at the Level 1 foundation course residential school you should be a graduate (or equivalent) in physics, chemistry, earth sciences or biology, with some teaching experience. Science residential schools are laboratory based, with tutorial sessions in the evenings. The higher level courses that require tutors are in *biology* - form and function, brain and behaviour, animal physiology, living processes; *earth sciences* - geology, understanding the continent; *chemistry* - organic, inorganic, chemical environment; *physics* - discovering physics, quantum mechanics.

Technology

For the Level 1 foundation course residential school, you should have teaching experience and either qualifications or experience in one of the following: waste management and environmental impact; telematics and internet technology; biology or chemistry of water resources; metallurgy/materials science and structural design engineering. For Level 2 and 3 courses, you should have a background in analogue and digital electronics; engineering mechanics (solids); materials engineering and science; innovation and design; systems; or communication skills in a technological context. For the MBA (Technology Management) residential school, you should hold a degree or professional qualification in technology or management and have experience relevant to the management of technology.

Centre for Modern Languages

The second and third courses in the University's French and German language programmes include a one-week residential school. The schools will take place during July and August and will be held at locations abroad and in the UK. Similar teaching programmes will be followed at each site. To teach at the residential school, you should be familiar with communicative teaching methodology, and task-based learning, and be prepared to teach students with varied language learning experience and competencies. For our higher level German courses, a knowledge of aspects of German Studies (eg. specialist knowledge of politics, history etc.) is also desirable. We need graduates (or equivalent) who are native or near native French and German speakers, who have experience in teaching language to adults. Applicants should note that experience or familiarity with open distance language learning would be an advantage, as would experience or familiarity with the Open University and its modern languages courses.

Interdisciplinary Courses

There are two degree level interdisciplinary courses. To teach at the residential school in women's studies you must be a specialist in that area. An interest in cultural and/or media studies would be an advantage, but it is not essential. For the residential school in Third World development you should be a specialist in that area, with a particular interest in one or more of the following in the context of development: technology, gender, culture or environment. For the MSc Development Management school in Institutional Development you must have relevant qualifications and development management experience, particularly in negotiating and brokering and/or facilitating participative training.

Demonstrator Posts

Demonstrators are required to assist and support tutors with laboratory experiments and demonstrate techniques to students, many of whom have had no laboratory experience. We need graduates (or the equivalent) in science, with a knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics or earth sciences, and in engineering and mathematics, with a knowledge of materials science, metallurgy, corrosion, electronics/microcomputing or dynamics.

How to apply

For further particulars and an application form please send a postcard to the Residential Schools Tutors Office, PO Box 82, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AU or email J.Goodman@open.ac.uk quoting reference IN. Completed application forms must reach the University by Wednesday 27th January 1999.

The Open University

Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape.

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

TEL: 0171 293 2222 **FAX: 0171 293 2505**

on top.. when India is part of the EU

A few headline predictions for 2020 from the Futures Observatory

- ☐ India will become part of the European Union
- ☐ The nuclear family will be a mother and two children,with fathers an optional extra
- ☐ People will routinely have microchips inserted into their brains to store data and communicate directly with computers
- ☐ The retiring age will be raised to 70
- ☐ The Euro will be a big success
- ☐ Women will dominate middle management
- ☐ The USA will decline economically and lose world political leadership
- ☐ Guerilla groups will make use of networks to spread 'electronic terrorism'
- ☐ Space exploration will put human colonies on the moon and other planets by 2050
- ☐ Safe mind-altering drugs will be used legally for work and pleasure

Have you got your own views about the future?
Contribute to the debate by e-mail to alumni@open.ac.uk

history' but what we see is the end of ideology and the rise of a pragmatic approach; people concerned with single issues. You only have to look at organisations like Greenpeace to see how successful this can be."

For the record David, who worked for IBM for 15 years, believes the power of multi-national corporations is exaggerated and not a threat to individual empowerment. His book also predicts that the growing freedom to choose individual lifestyles will accelerate the breakdown of traditional values and social groupings, including the nuclear family, but alternatives, such as a new form of extended family, will be found.

And, perhaps to hedge its bets, David's book also provides a short glimpse of an alternative future which could come about if 'dark forces' of pessimism, fear and rigid political thinking gain the upper hand. This is seen as unlikely and, even at worst, will only delay the brighter future.

How are these forecasts made? The Futures Observatory starts from the basic premise that nearly all the technology that will be important over the next 25 years or so has already been developed, and what counts is how we choose to use it. The future will be shaped by the choices which everyone makes. It is an aggregate of our hopes and fears and expectations.

The researchers use detailed questionnaires completed by around one thousand Open University MBA students, asking for 102 responses on how they envisage the future, extrapolating from present trends. In a parallel exercise, more than 20 focus groups, again largely composed of managers, work on future scenarios for their own areas of interest. The results from the two are cross-referenced.

There is input from a variety of other sources – organisations like Demos and the Henley Centre for Forecasting, a number of individuals (often anonymous) in government; and a computer conference.

Among the sponsors are multinationals and government organisations, who evidently agree with the saying that the future belongs to those who can see it coming.

But if you asked 1,000 people sleeping on the streets of Calcutta, or 1,000 mums bringing up families on benefit, for their views of the future, might not the future look somewhat different?

Other research, says Dovid, shows that the majority of the population is, on balance, optimistic rather than pessimistic about the future, and more optimistic than it was five years ago.

"What we are seeking is the consensus view. We are not distorting the facts."

YVONNE COOK

David Mercer is a senior lecturer in the OU's Business School and a leading authority on strategic business planning and marketing.
Future Revolutions: A Comprehensive Guide to Life and Work in the Next Millennium *is published by Orion Business Books.*

Looking ahead: David Mercer of the Futures Observatory

FIRST THURSDAY

TV Critic: work for those who can't do a proper job

IN MORE THAN 35 years hanging around newspapers I had my fill of specialist writers. I'd even had a teenage ambition to become one.

"What sort of a journalist do you intend to be, Barker?" Whispering Smith, the history master, had asked. "I rather thought I'd be a political correspondent," I replied. "That you may be," he said. "But, God *knows*, you'll never be a diplomatic one."

I thought of writing to him when I achieved the lofty height of foreign editor; but that was at the *Mirror* where we were not so much diplomatic as urging people to come off it, and when the Editor of the *Sunday Mirror* once donned his diplomatic hat, an unfortunate misprint meant that his open letter to a South American ambassador began, "We are appealing to you, tosdy..."

But to the point. Along the way I stumbled over a few television critics. These, I quickly discovered, were not as other men, not even the women. Mainly, they were journalists who weren't up to doing a proper job.

There was one who became so sozzled at previews that she would come back to the office to sleep it off and threatened that, should she ever be sufficiently sober to pen an autobiography, its title would come from the first words she heard every morning: "*Shall We Just Hoover Round Her?*"

Clive James memorably (well, I remember it) described J K Ewing's hat band as consisting of crushed budgies. While Nancy Banks Smith, on the advent of colour television, advised her readers to wear sunglasses to avoid getting black eyes from the panchromatic glare. I am not making this up.

Then there was Ken Irwin, who reviewed the first performances of *Coronation Street* and predicted that it would never catch on.

And recently A A Gill (it's a sad day when you're ashamed to admit to having a name like Adrian) criticised an Open University *Romans in Britain* presenter for wearing leathers. He was travelling around on a motorbike, for goodness' sake! What's ha supposed to wear – polyester trousers with a crotch bulge?

He also said that real Roman history and archaeology were about great cities, not about ordinary people. Well, that might have been the case at Ade's school, but down my way, where we thought (hoped) that *The Lays Of Ancient Rome* was the latest Harold Robbins, what fuse-nuted us was Whispering Smith's revelation that the Romans used washable squares of worsted for toilet paper; and that, after marching to Tyneside from the Mediterranean (and just ponder on *that*) they wrote *home* that they were bloody freezing.

But er... that's it. Nearly 40 years of knowing and reading TV crits and that is all I can remember.

As I say, they are not real reporters. I was one, once (a real reporter I mean, not, heaven forfend, a TV crit), for a period during which I was spat upon, stoned, shot at, shelled, bitten by a snake and a poisonous spider and evacuated from a burning aeroplane. I was deported by a friendly nation, jailed by an unfriendly one, and threatened with jail by one that's never been sure. What does a TV critic do? He sits by his fireside and criticises Kate Adie, that's what.

The point is (you were wondering when I would get round to it) they are not even critics in the real sense.

They don't watch telly like you and I do. For the most part they watch only videos, or they go to preview cinemas for sandwiches and drinks. Unlike book or theatre critics, they don't advise you about what's available, or what her to save your money.

Although I have a pal who, as a theatre critic, once wrote: "Slick, sparkling, spectacular, and with some of the most brilliant dancing seen on the English stage, *this* colourful musical drama has a weakness – its songs. It has no songs to hum or remember."

And the dwindling band of *News Chronicle* readers woke one day in November 1958 to read about A HUMDINGER – WITHOUT A TUNE TO HUM across two columns of the front page. So much for the European premiere of *West Side Story*.

That theatre critic was to become a distinguished motoring correspondent. But I digress.

TV reviewers (as distinct from previewers, who are vital) tell you only about what has been on. And what, pray, is the benefit of that? You either saw it, or you missed it. Remember when at junior school you were told to write a composition on What I Did On My Holidays? That's it: your boss tells you to write about What I Saw On Telly Last Week – only you can cheat by getting the tapes of your choice biked round to your house. Possibly by somebody in leathers.

And then the TV companies read the stuff and say, Didn't we do well? or, He would say that, the pompous ass, wouldn't he?

Either way, the critics don't criticise TV in the way that real-time viewers would. They don't say the trouble with telly is that, apart from *The Learning Zone*, there's hardly ever any damn thing to watch. That the best programmes on a Saturday night are repeats from Friday night. They don't do that, because they are not watching the box.

They pick a subject that might show how clever they are or about which they'd like to carp, and they expound on it – meandering along the way, and telling you more about themselves than you want or need to know – until they've written the required number of words, and then they stop.

Which is an incredibly simple thing to do.

As, I hope, I have just proved.

REVEL BARKER

Gill Tucker: facing a new challenge in East London

OPENING UP

Gill strikes a new note

GILL TUCKER started a challenging new job this month as Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of East London. The appointment makes her the university's senior academic – and, appropriately for an OU Grad, her responsibilities include access and lifelong learning. She is an accomplished musician who followed a Masters in Music from Kings College, London, with a music research scholarship in Munich, then her OU maths study helped to spark a change of direction.

What was your family background?
I come from Bromley in Kent. My father was an industrial chemist and my mother did office work but gave it up to bring up children. Apart from one cousin, I was the only one in my family to go to university.

What was your earliest ambition?
From my earliest years I was potty about music. I went to my first prom concert at the age of five. I started playing the piano late, at 13, because until then we lived in a flat where we couldn't have one.

How were your school years?
OK. I went to what was then Beckenham Grammar School for Girls where they totally supported me in my musical studies. In the sixth form they even paid for me to have lessons from a Royal Academy of Music professor.

What was your first job and what did you earn?
I suppose my first real job was a junior research fellowship in music at Somerville College, Oxford, in 1970, where I earned £2,000 a year. My first permanent job was lecturer in music at Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University) in 1982.

What made you start studying with the OU?
At Oxford Polytechnic I was working in a very esoteric branch of music research – music analysis – some of which was supposedly based on mathematical principles. I was very sceptical whether these principles were really valid in a musical context, but couldn't argue the case because I didn't know enough about maths. My first idea was to do a maths 'A' level, because I only had an 'O' level in the subject, but a friend said "Why don't you do a degree with the Open University?". I did the maths foundation course, as it was then, and it was a revelation. I loved it. In all I did four maths courses over four years.

What difference has the OU made?
Up to that date I had had an elitist education – grammar school, conservatoire, Oxford University. The combination of my experience at the OU, meeting other students and seeing what a struggle some of them had had educationally, and going to work at Oxford Polytechnic, was an eye-opener. I came out of music research, and became interested in education, and what it could do for students in an inclusive way. I eventually became head of learning and teaching at Oxford Brookes in 1996. And the maths study answered my question – I decided that the mathematical principles weren't valid!

What does your new job involve?
The University of East London is highly committed to access and widening participation. I'll be leading the academic agenda. The students are mostly local and there are a lot of mature students, and students from ethnic minorities. There's a lot of regeneration going on in the area and the new Docklands campus is going to open soon.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
That I can develop things in the university which are beneficial for students. Education is a lifeline for many people – it is a way of pulling themselves up by their bootstraps.

... and least?
Education cuts which mean that what we are trying to do becomes more difficult year by year.

Would you do more OU study? If so, what?
I probably won't have time. But I would recommend it to anyone.

To what do your attribute your success?
A lot of people have given me chances and opened doors for me, but I suppose I would have to say persistence and dedication. And my education.

What are your goals for the future?
To change the values of the British education system. We have not fully thought through the implications of the change to mass higher education. The research assessment exercise is still the dominant agenda, which means staff are rewarded more overtly for good research than for good teaching, to the detriment of the sector.

How would you like to be remembered?
As a contributor to British higher education on behalf of students.

Climbing the qualifications ladder

Simon Newton looks at some of this month's highlights

Bachelor, Master, Doctor: The Three Degrees

THE THREE DEGREES is not just the girl group who were favourites of Prince Charles a few years ago. The term also describes the ladder of qualifications in higher education – BA, MA, PhD. With 30 per cent of school leavers now studying for a university qualification, a higher degree may provide that critical edge in the market-place.

In *The Three Degrees*, an OU advice programme at 7.35am on 29 January, the undergraduate degree is projected as one where arguments are presented and the student is invited to agree or disagree and make a case. At Master level, the students have to develop the argument themselves and locate the key sources of information while wrestling with both theory and technique. As a tutor remarks, "Master level study provides intellectual stretching and a sense of exploration."

This programme looks at the different options available such as the 'conversion' Master degree taken by a student whose first degree was in sociology but is now studying for an MSc in Information Systems and Technology with a professional interest in how technology is used in organisations. A taught Master's can develop a more intimate knowledge of a subject and introduce the student to research skills.

Piano teacher Sunethra Goonewarden used her first degree from the OU to gain access to a part-time MPhil (a staging post to a PhD) at Brunel University studying Counselling for Visually Impaired People. A PhD is research-based and concerns independent scholarship and an original contribution to knowledge. Sue Coomber, a former fork-lift truck driver and lab technician, is now a full-time PhD student with the OU researching into the bio-physics of muscle. She warns of the need for long-term commitment and enthusiasm for the subject chosen for successful independent study across a number of years.

The students interviewed in *The Three Degrees* show the huge variety of subject areas students pursue for a PhD. Martin Treacy, an OU graduate, is now attempting to synthesise Eastern and Western approaches to personal growth while Graham Jagger researches the life of Joseph Moxon, a 17th-century globe maker and mathematician.

Financial support is rarely easy. With OU studentships scarce, students look to research councils, educational foundations and their own resources. But the intellectual rewards can be great. Graham Jagger speaks of his PhD as "formalised inquisitiveness" bringing together both life experience and academic qualification – a very OU phenomenon.

DIGITAL PLANET is a series of three programmes which looks at how communication technology is changing the world. The series is at 7pm on Mondays on BBC2, rather than in the early hours of the Learning Zone – so you can watch it "live", instead of on tape.

Cyberwar, broadcast earlier this week, looked at the war of the future: the launch pad no longer a runway, but a computer; the attacker no longer a combat pilot, but a hacker. As societies become increasingly reliant on communication and control systems a new threat has emerged – what happens if those systems are attacked electronically? Surprisingly, military leaders and companies are looking towards a 2500-year-old Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu, for inspiration.

Next week's programme *Cybertalk*, looks at individual communication. For thousands of years we have stopped to talk - on street corners or across garden fences. Where we talk and who we talk to defines our community and who we are within it. From the wired world of an on-line suburban street to the connected classrooms of the Western Isles, the digital age is shifting the boundaries of our communities and changing the people we are (11 January).

In the final programme in the series, *Cybersouls*, we meet STELARC, a performance artist who is re-thinking what it is to be human, as he surrenders control of his body to the Internet. When we can talk across continents and live in virtual realities, might we eventually become one with technology – cybersouls emerging from human bodies which are no longer needed? Or could the machines themselves take over? It sounds like the stuff of science fiction but it may be frighteningly close to reality. (18 January).

Further information can be found on Ceefax page 628 or at *www.open.ac.uk/digitalplanet*.

PROGRAMME GUIDE FOR JANUARY

Your complete guide to the BBC Learning Zone – including Open University programmes

Monday 11 January

05:45 am Using TV (D103/1)
Looking at how TV was used to highlight the Ethiopian famine of 1984/5.

05:35 am Taking Off (MU120/1)
How maths is everywhere – from the shape of coins in your pocket to patterns in New Zealand's mud pools.

Tuesday 12 January

00:30 am A Different Way of Learning (INTOU/01)
From home study and group tutorials to summer school, OU students get much more than a piece of paper.

01:00 am The Science of Climate? (S103/2)
Does global warming really exist – and if so, is man to blame?

01:30 am A Formidable Foe (S103/3)
Malaria still kills about 2 million children each year. What are the prospects for defeating this deadliest of diseases?

05:45 am Lifestyles, Work & the Family (D103/2)
How has everyday life changed in the UK since 1945? Two families give their views.

06:35 am Wood, Brass and Baboon Bones (MST121/1)
A brief history of mathematical models revealing how people have used everyday materials to describe and control their world.

Wednesday 13 January

00:30 am Sickle Cell – A Lethal Advantage (S103/4)
Discovering why this potentially lethal inherited condition is so common among people of African origin.

01:00 am A Thread of Quicksilver (S103/5)
Looking at the contribution mercury – the only conveniently liquid metal at room temperature – has made to scientific advances.

01:30 am Uncertain Principles (S103/7)
Einstein couldn't bring himself to believe in Quantum Theory – yet without it, we wouldn't understand how electricity works.

05:45 am Reading the Landscape (D103/3)
What can the landscape tell us about the social forces that shaped England? East Lulworth in Dorset and Styal in Cheshire yield their secrets.

06:35 am A Source of Inspiration (MS221/1)
Whether natural or man-made, clockwise or anti-clockwise, many spirals can be described by just three mathematical models.

Thursday 14 January

00:30 am The Birth of Liquid Crystals (S103/1)
Looking at the fourth state of matter – liquid crystals – which have existed in nature for over a billion years.

01:00 am Hidden Visions (S103/9)
The beauty and structure of the microscopic world.

01:30 am Lifelines (S103/8)
The intellectual struggle to establish the theory of evolution as the cornerstone of our understanding of life.

05:45 am Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity (D103/4)
How immigrants of the 60's and their families feel about life in the UK

06:35 am The Passionate Statistician (MU120/2)
How Florence Nightingale's passion for collecting, analysing and presenting information helped transform healthcare during the Crimean War.

Fri 15 January 1999

00:30 am A University Without Walls (FOA096/15)
Through personal accounts of five students, find out why the OU can be a life-changing experience.

01:00 am Lost Worlds (S103/6)
Mysteries of extinction – from the dinosaurs to the woolly mammoth.

01:30 am Making Contact (B103/10)
Scientists who dedicate their lives to the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

05:45 am Women, Children and Work (D103/05)
What are the costs of providing child care and who should foot the bill.

06:35 am Asthma and the Brain (MU120/3)
How were statistics used to find the cause of mysterious outbreaks of asthma in Barcelona during the 1980s?

Monday 18 January

05:45 am From Public to Private (D103/6)
Investigating the effects of privatisation on workers and customers.

06:35 am Caught in Time (MU120/5)
How mathematicians have discovered previously unknown juggling patterns.

Tuesday 19 January

00:30 am Framing and Forming (A103/1)
Revealing the secret meanings in abstract art through Jackson Pollock's *Summertime*.

01:00 am The Sonnet (A103/2)
Used by Dante, Shakespeare and Wordsworth, this 600 year old verse form and its enduring popularity are explored and explained.

01:30 am Music to the Ear (A103/3)
Taking a popular Beatles' song apart to reveal the basic elements of music.

05:45 am Questions of Sovereignty (D103/7)
Is the UK losing its sovereignty to the European Union? Views from both Westminster and Brussels.

05:35 am Blue Haven (MBT121/2)
Can mathematical models help to decide whether the Blue Whale will survive – or is it already too late?

Wednesday 20 January

00:30 am Philosophy in Action: (A103/4)
Should Boxing be banned? Barry McGuigan and Lord Hattersley join a panel who share their views on this controversial subject.

01:00 am The Emperor's Gift (A103/5)
Exploring the origins of the Colosseum.

01:30 am Wembley Stadium: Venue of Legends (A103/6)
An architectural history of London's historic stadium.

APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

A Senior Lectureship and 4 Lectureships in Psychology (permanent appointments)

Two posts in cognitive psychology; the others in any other area.

You can help take the Open University -'the most exciting development in higher education in this century' into the next century!

We are looking for creative and productive academics who have a broad and developed knowledge of psychology, and an established or developing track record in research and publication. You should have enthusiasm and vision for developing your research, good communication and writing skills, and an interest in developing multimedia teaching *materials for students from a wide range of backgrounds.*

For the posts in cognitive psychology you should have the ability to teach across a range of core topics in adult cognition such as memory, language, perception and reasoning, including both theoretical and applied aspects, and should have active research interests in one or more of these or related areas.

We can offer you strong support for developing and extending your own research, including ample study leave, funding for conferences, travel, equipment and research assistance: also a good research culture offering intellectual challenge and the opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration. The Department has developed research strengths in a number of areas, including discourse analysis, social development and learning, cognitive psychology, neural networks, consciousness studies and theoretical psychology.

This is the opportunity to join a creative, influential and expanding psychology department. The Psychology Discipline at the Open University is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in Psychology, offering Undergraduate, Taught Masters and Research Degrees and a Postgraduate Conversion Diploma. More than 10,000 students take our courses in the UK and worldwide supported by 500 local tutors.

Appointment will be made on the salary scales Senior Lecturer £30,496 - £34,464; Lecturer A £16,655 - £21,815 pa, Lecturer B £22,726 - £29,048 pa, depending on qualifications and experience.

If you would like to discuss this post please contact Richard Stevens, Head of Psychology, on Milton Keynes (01908) 654515, or e-mail: R.J.Stevens@open.ac.uk or Dr Phil Sarra, Dean of the Faculty on Milton Keynes (01908) 654425.

Further details and application forms and access details for disabled applicants are available from Ms Yvonne Honeywell on Milton Keynes (01908) 654415, e-mail: Y.M.Honeywell@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

THE PLANNING DIVISION

Statistical Programmer

We are looking to appoint a Statistical Programmer to join our Statistics Team. The Team comprises seven persons and provides statistical data and management information about Open University students and staff to internal managers and to external agencies.

You will be expected to provide technical support to, and co-ordinate statistical programming activities for, the Team and to contribute to the statistical and management information service provided by the Statistics Team.

You will need a degree (or equivalent) in mathematics or computer science or statistics, and proven experience in computer programming.

The appointment will be made on Academic Related Grade 1 scale £15,735 - £17,570 pa or on the Grade 2 scale £18,275 - £23,651 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from Viv Crew on Milton Keynes (01908) 652934; e-mail: V.L.Crew @ open.ac.uk to whom completed application forms should be sent by Friday 22 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

OPEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Systems Manager (Library)

(Temporary three year post)

Applications are welcomed for this new post located within the IT Support and Development Group of the Open University Library Service. There are currently a broad range of administrative and information systems supporting staff and library customers, and you will be responsible for their further development and managing ongoing support.

You will have a good degree in a computer related discipline, and at least 3 years prior experience of technical development and support in a similar customer environment. You will also manage a small support team, and experience of staff management would therefore be advantageous. Proven technical skills will be needed which should include NT Server, W95/NT, Web server development, CGI programming and Web/database interface development coupled with excellent communication skills and a dedication to user-centred design.

This is a busy post offering an opportunity for continuous challenge and exposure to leading edge technologies. A willingness to be proactive, adaptable and embrace change is therefore essential.

Appointment will be made on Academic Related Grade 3 salary scale £24,591 - £29,048 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

For access details for disabled applicants please contact Mary Hunt on Milton Keynes (01908) 652672.

For an application form and further particulars telephone our 24 hour answering service on Milton Keynes (01908) 653868.

Closing date for applications: 28 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

COURSE TUTORS for the Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Programmes in Computing for Commerce for Industry

The University is actively seeking part-time Tutors within the United Kingdom for the following postgraduate diploma courses in the Computing for Commerce and Industry programme (CCI).

- Architectures of Computing Systems
- Project Management
- Relational Database Systems
- Software Development for Networked Applications using JAVA
- Software Engineering
- User Interface Design and Development

What would we expect of you ?

The Course Tutor's role is to be the key source of academic support to a group of students through being available by telephone and electronic mail to answer queries concerning course content and study skills, by marking and commenting on assignments and by monitoring the progress of students. The Programme is committed to introducing electronic submission and marking of assignments on all courses.

Who do we need ?

People from commerce, industry or education, educated to degree level and with an appropriate level of industrial or commercial expertise. Teaching experience is desirable though not essential; we are looking for Course Tutors who have the ability to motivate and direct the study of busy, professional people learning at a distance.

What do we offer ?

An interesting and often challenging job which will help you develop just as much as your students and will give you the chance to become involved in shaping the computer technologists, engineers and managers of tomorrow.

The Postgraduate Diploma courses are presented annually in May and November, each course running for six months. Course Tutors will be employed on the basis that they are engaged to teach the May or November course presentation line, each of which will be for a fixed term of approximately eight years or the duration of the course life, whichever is the shorter.

To obtain an application package and further particulars, which are available on request in alternative formats, please contact: The CCI/MMT Office, The Open University, 143 Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1PH, e-mail: R05-CCI@open.ac.uk This is also the contact for access details.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

Visit The Open University Alumni Website On:

www.openlink.org

TEL: 0171 293 2222 **FAX: 0171 293 2505**

Climbing the qualifications ladder

OPENING UP

If you can't see, ask a satellite the way

Technology which was first developed for cruise missiles may give new independence to blind people. Yvonne Cook reports

SATELLITE signals which help ships to find their way at sea are being used in an experimental navigation system which could give a new independence to blind people.

Scientific engineer David Jones, based at the OU, his colleague Graham Moon and four sight-impaired volunteers, have just completed trials of the prototype system, which allows blind people independently to follow a route they have never taken before.

They are equipped with a computer which picks up signals from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite and identifies their location. Routes are pre-programmed into the computer, and the walker is guided by recorded instructions replayed through a headset. The headset allows walkers to hear noises around them as well as listen to the instructions.

The system can also be set to "direct explore" mode, allowing users to stand still (or sit) and explore their surroundings. The system tells them what is around them in any direction, and how far away it is.

To increase accuracy, the system also uses RDS – the technology used to tell car radios to which station they are tuned. Using these the walker's position can be identified accurately to within a few metres. To locate obstacles immediately in their path, walkers still rely on the traditional dog or cane.

Initiated and funded by David, the system has been developed over the past four years by Graham, a PhD student based at Nottingham University.

Gary Ankin, one of the trial volunteers, said: " This system means I can feel confident about finding my way along a route I have never been before. Without it, if I go to an unfamiliar place I have to rely on stopping people and asking them the way."

The system will function almost anywhere in the world. In future, it's possible to imagine computer route maps for visually-impaired people being provided for most towns and cities, parks, tourist attractions and complex sites such as the OU's campus (which frequently baffles sighted visitors). If so, blind people will be able to load the appropriate software into their PAL – Personal Area Locator – and find their way to their destination.

But that's still in the future. "Now we know it works, what we need to do is to miniaturise the equipment," says David.

Currently the user has to carry, besides headphones, a laptop computer and a compass. All this, David reckons, could be reduced down to the size of a hand-held calculator, but it will take several years work, and more funds, to perfect. The funding situation is uncertain – the system has been developed on a shoestring. Graham's PhD is coming to its end. David is busy looking for new funding: "Without funds or anybody working on it full time, progress will be slow or, worse, it will grind to a halt."

The GPS system for blind people on test at the OU

Cybersouls on a digital planet

OPPENHEIMER, father of the atom bomb, fills the screen with his melancholy and quotes Hindu scripture: "I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

Apocalypse? Well, maybe. But although the Millennium is almost upon us the threat is less likely to come from the bomb than from communications technologies. Although Saddam may disagree, armies of the future may no longer be armed with bombs and bullets but with hostile software. Stop communications networks and you stop the world. With developed societies across the world depending on the reliable working of communications and control systems, wired dissident groups and hackers may have as much power as the greatest armies.

In *Cyberwar*, the first programme in the prime-time series *Digital Planet*, Dr Stephen Bodsey, Senior Lecturer at Sandhurst, claimed that "Waterloo was the last major conventional battle conforming to 1,000 years of history. Julius Caesar could have commanded that battle."

In just a hundred years, the nature of battle and the role of the individual soldier has changed completely. The industrial age has given way to the information age. Nation states and national security have become highly vulnerable, and frontiers can now be crossed silently using electronics rather than tanks and aircraft.

Cyberwar demonstrates how the US is becoming aware of the threat of an electronic Pearl Harbour – an abrupt attack on communications systems halting the stock market, emergency services, air traffic control and the utilities. Soon after the Gulf War, researchers at the US think-tank, the Rand Corporation, announced that national armies were as redundant as Henry Ford's production line. Their paper *Cyberwar is Coming* asked the crucial question 'Do numbers make the difference on a battlefield or does knowing?'

But, as Churchill remarked, it's better to "jaw-jaw than war-war" and *Cybertalk* explores whether the new communications technologies are actually changing the way we talk to each other. Language makes us human and our social, emotional and political lives depend on our use of speech to form new alliances and defend our territory.

In the world of the mobile phone, video-conferencing and the Internet, our communications seem to defy time and space. We are certainly greatly to extend our communities but are our conversations improving in quality or just increasing in frequency?

With e-mail, voice-mail and junk mail, have we really found a better substitute for the conversation over the garden fence or on the street corner? *Cybertalk* takes a look at Microsoft's experiment in wiring up a London street and asks whether new technology can actually strengthen a sense of community. Residents share advice on growing acacias with gardening enthusiasts across the Pacific but do residents still borrow sugar and talk face to face? If e-mail is the most impoverished form of communication why has it been so successful?

In the Western Isles, communications technology is used to keep communities together. Tiny primary schools now access specialist teaching in drama, music and art through the phone line and the computer screen. The kind of teaching only previously available on the mainland now reaches the most isolated village.

We now live in a kind of communications soup with different forms of contact swirling around rather than replacing each other. How different are the prophets of the Internet from those who predicted that the Victorian Internet – the telegraph – would create information overload?

As Tom Standage, Science Editor of *The Economist*, says "Information overload really happened for the first time in the 1860s when business really woke up to the telegraph. Once a business had it, all other businesses had to adopt it because otherwise they couldn't compete."

Effective communications will always determine whether organisations survive, but we are still unsure about the ultimate benefits. As the OU's Chris Dillon says: "Corporations can't predict the future – stories about the inevitability of technology, how it will improve our lives, are all just stories – we don't have to believe them."

In a world of smart cards and smart buildings, will we soon have smart people? Now we can talk across continents and live and play in virtual realities, the programme *Cybersouls* asks what are the boundaries of our bodies in the digital age?

STELARC, a performance artist, is shown connecting his body to the Internet with digital data converted into electrical charges to make him move involuntarily. Is he a wired body or a fleshed machine?

Researchers are also exploring genuine mergers of human beings with technology. Kevin Warwick, Professor of Cybernetics at Reading University, implanted a silicon chip into his arm for a computer to map his movements and sensations. When the chip was removed he mourned the loss of what seemed to be an extra faculty but senses real danger. "If we give machines enough power, if they can communicate across the Internet, then we have distinct problems – this could mean that we lose control ultimately and the Internet and machines are in control themselves."

Cybersouls takes us into a new realm of ethics where Koestler's 'ghost in the machine' may have been expelled completely in an emerging world of digital flesh. Researchers at MIT are already designing 'wearable technology.' Steve Mann, self-styled 'cyborg' at the University of Toronto, reads his e-mail and transmits his view of the world via a computer screen and tv camera miniaturised into his spectacles.

If we can extend our senses and bodies with technology and intelligent machines can make decisions by leaving us out of the loop altogether, will we become second class citizens? The digital world already has a grip on us, recording our actions. Through our credit cards, bank accounts, insurance and health records we are leaving a distinctive data trail behind us.

Digital Planet shows us why our pre-millennial tension is justified. It also reminds us we have choices to make about the future.

The second and third episodes are shown on BBC2 on the next two Mondays. The series will then be repeated in the small hours during February – see next month's *Open Eye* for details.

SIMON NEWTON

OU signs new partnership deal with BBC

THE OU AND THE BBC have signed a new partnership agreement which gives the University greater flexibility in its choice of producers for programmes as it enters the age of digital broadcasting. Although BBC Production at Milton Keynes will remain the main supplier of programmes, the new joint Commissioning Unit set up under the agreement will also work with the independent sector for the first time. The Unit expects to provide around 800 hours a year of broadcast material for BBC 2, as well as co-commissioning programmes for BBC Learning Zone, Radios 3 and 4, and the BBC's new digital channels. Joint projects already agreed upon include a major co-commission for the BBC Education Millennium History Project and a new production of Hamlet for Radio 3.

Jane Drabble, Director of Education for the BBC, said: "The launch of our new Digital Learning Channel next year will offer even more scope for joint ventures as we devote additional resources to support people learning at home. We anticipate a growing demand from adult viewers who are studying to gain extra qualifications, to brush up on work skills or, increasingly, learning for pleasure." For the OU, Ann Floyd, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Curriculum and Awards, said the OU will maintain and strengthen its link with the BBC, and take full advantage of the wide range of independent production facilities now available. "This will be particularly important as we develop our digital and on-line services," she said.

The BBC and the OU have worked in partnership since the OU was created. This new agreement is the fourth in the OU's history. It was signed in December at Broadcasting House in London by Sir John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, and OU Vice-Chancellor Sir John Daniel.

APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

DISCIPLINE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT

Lecturer in Information Systems in Technology Management

(Temporary 3 year full-time post based in Milton Keynes)

The Open University's Faculty of Technology has been in the forefront of the development of technology management as an academic and applied subject area. The Faculty's Technology and Manufacturing Management Discipline has a successful MBA (Technology Management) Programme and now wishes to build on this foundation with the appointment of a Lecturer in Information Systems in Technology Management.

Applicants may come from a wide variety of backgrounds but should have a thorough understanding of and interest in:

- the issues and practicalities involved in the strategic use of information technologies within an organizational context;
- the design, development and implementation of information systems;
- the role of information in achieving the strategic aim of organizations.

The appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa or the Grade B scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa according to academic attainment and experience, for a period of 3 years in the first instance.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Lecturer in Environmental Engineering

(Temporary 3 year full-time post based in Milton Keynes)

Applications are invited from graduates in physics, mathematics or any branch of engineering with post-graduate experience in waste engineering or management for the post of lecturer in environmental engineering within the Department of Environmental and Mechanical Engineering in the Faculty of Technology at the Open University. Applicants should be Chartered Engineers and members of an appropriate engineering institution. You will be expected to contribute both to the presentation and rewrite of current pollution control courses. Preference may be given to applicants who will contribute to the environmental research profile of the Faculty.

The appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa or the Grade B scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa according to academic attainment and experience, for a period of 3 years in the first instance.

For the above two post the further particulars, an application form and access details for disabled applicants are available from Mrs Steph Brown, e-mail: n.k.brown@open.ac.uk or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653941. There is a 24 hour answering service on Milton Keynes (01908) 654144. Further particulars are also available on the WWW page http://www-tec.open.ac.uk/deanery/

Closing date for applications: 26 January 1999.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Lectureships in Education

(5 temporary 2 year posts)

Applications are invited for 3 full-time and 2 half-time two year lectureship posts in the School of Education in the Secondary PGCE (11-18 age range) as follows:

Full-Time Posts: English; Science; Mathematics

Half-Time Posts: History; Design & Technology

The Open University's PGCE Programme, aimed primarily to provide a mature entrant part-time route into teaching, began in 1994 and nearly 4000 primary and secondary teachers have qualified in this way. New courses are now in preparation for the launch of a fully revised programme in 2001. Staff are sought who will primarily assist in the presentation of the existing programme.

You will be expected to have good knowledge and experience of your phase and subject area and be aware of the requirements of school based initial teacher education programmes. Applications are welcome from those wishing to seek secondment.

The posts are tenable for two years from 1 April 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter, and will be based within the School of Education at Milton Keynes. Salary will be on either the Lecturer A Salary Scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa or the Lecturer B Salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa depending on experience and qualifications. Salary will be paid pro-rata for the half-time posts.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from the Assistant Secretary, School of Education, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone (01908) 652148. This is also the number for enquiries about access, or e-mail: education-recruitment@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Lecturer (Human Resource Development in Health and Social Care)

(5 year temporary post based in Milton Keynes)

The School of Health and Social Welfare is seeking to appoint a lecturer to contribute to the work of the Human Resource Development Programme in the newly established Centre for Widening Participation. This offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to the University's planning in a key area of development. The Centre will be the focus for the teaching of access programmes and life long learning opportunities designed to increase uptake to higher education and to assist in student retention. You should have a strong track record in human resource development and experience of developing continuing professional development programmes within the health and social welfare field. Initially the lecturer will focus on the remaking of a personal and career development course. You will be expected to make a contribution to research within the School and to further the development of the Centre.

For an informal discussion, please contact Janice Dolley, Lecturer, Milton Keynes (01908) 654284.

Appointment will be made on the lecturer scale A £16,655 - £21,815 pa or B £22,726 - £29,048 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from Sue Stoig, School of Health and Social Welfare, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 654235, e-mail: n.stoig@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 26 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION

Appointment of Part-time Tutor-Supervisors Educational Management Line of Study

The Open University's Doctorate in Education (EdD) is a recent initiative designed to meet the needs of professionals in education and related areas who wish to extend and deepen their understanding of contemporary educational issues, to develop appropriate skills in educational research and enquiry, and to carry out original research in order to contribute to professional knowledge and practice. The programme comprises both taught and research components.

We are now seeking additional part-time tutor-supervisors on the new Educational Management Doctoral Line, to support students beginning their three year research component in May 1999. They will be researching in one of the following areas of study:

- Managing the students' experience
- Managing people
- Managing resources
- Managing the environment
- Strategic management

Tutor-supervisors need expert knowledge of the relevant topic area, supervision skills and competence, a critical understanding of the research process and a familiarity with the research methods needed for that topic area. All students applying to enter the research component will have already successfully completed taught courses, including one in research methods and another in educational management, and will come with a developed research proposal.

Students, tutor-supervisors and other members of the doctorate team are linked by a computer conferencing and e-mail system, supplemented by telephone and residential weekend contacts. An Internet site provides students and tutor-supervisors with access to materials and fellow researchers outside the programme. Tutor-supervisors will not need expertise of computer conferencing or the Internet, but some prior experience of computer use is essential.

For further details and an application form please contact Isabelle Gentric, The Open University London Regional Centre, Parsifal College, 527 Finchley Road, London NW3 7BG. Tel: 0171 794 0575.

The closing date for applications is 18 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

The Open University BUSINESS SCHOOL — Investors in People — IiP — THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

RESEARCH FELLOW/ASSISTANT IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

(three-year post)

The Open University Business School is one of Europe's largest providers of management education, offering Professional Certificate, Diploma and MBA qualifications. The School is also significantly increasing its research capability.

The Public Interest and Non-profit Management Research Unit in the School seeks to appoint a full-time Research Fellow or Assistant for the study: Entrepreneurship in Public Services Management: Practice, Issues and Models. Started in April 1998, the study is exploring the role and practice of entrepreneurship in public service management, examining issues of ethics, risk and equity. Literature surveys, a seminar programme a new practitioner panel are underway: these will be complemented by survey and case work. The study will inform practice in public service management and education.

Applicants should have a postgraduate degree or relevant professional qualification and, for appointment as Research Fellow, should normally have a PhD. Applicants should have undertaken field research and worked with public managers, be familiar with quantitative methods, and have project management skills.

The appointment will be made on the Research Fellow scale £15,735 - £23,651 p.a. or the Research Assistant scale £15,735 - £17,570 p.a. according to qualifications and experience.

To obtain an application package and access details for disabled applicants contact The School Office, Open University Business School, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 652965 Fax 01908 655898, e-mail: OUBS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk stating source of advertisement. Visit our website at http://oubs.open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Interviews will be held on 17 February 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

Don't miss the next Open Eye edition on 4 February 1999.

Learning with London as the classroom

It's just another day's education for Leslie Barson's two children: 10.30 – piano lesson for Louis, 15, while Lilly, nine, and her mother go to a cafe and chat until it's time for Lilly's own piano class. 12.30 – to Alexandra Palace for an hour's ice-skating; then a game of football; then visiting friends' houses; in the evening, three hours at a North London college for Louis, who's studying for his maths 'A' level. It isn't a 'typical' day for Louis and Lilly – who have never attended regular school – because, as Yvonne Cook discovers, there are no typical days

Time for a music lesson: Leslie and Louis Barson

LOUIS AND LILLY don't work to a formal timetable. The whole of London, and beyond, is their classroom. They spend as much as two-thirds of their time on activities outside the home. And none of these is compulsory – everything is chosen by the children themselves.

Ten years ago, disillusioned by her son's experiences of nursery education, Leslie took the decision not to send five-year-old Louis to school. She had no training in teaching.

"I remember that day – September 6 1000. I was so worried; I thought the school inspector would arrive at the door any minute. I was sitting there thinking, How can I teach geography? I don't know any geography. Eventually we went to the park."

Gradually over the weeks things fell into place, with Leslie involving Louis in all her daily activities on the principle of learning through doing.

"We would make a cake together, we would go to the launderette and he would put the money in the machine, we would visit our Japanese friends and talk about where they came from. It wasn't trying to turn everything into an educative experience, just learning through life."

Now Louis and Lilly are older; they have a rough weekly pattern of activities, based around fixed points such as music lessons. But Leslie firmly believes that education comes through trusting the child's inbuilt desire to learn.

"This idea that you have to go in and beat the child up in order to put knowledge into its head seems the wrong way round. Children want to be part of the world – you don't have to motivate a young child to walk and talk. If you wait until the child says 'Yes I want to write', they will learn."

For the range of activities the Barson children choose to fit into their lives is quite startling – especially to many parents who believe their offspring would spend their entire lives slumped in front of a video or computer game if given half a chance.

As well as his Maths 'A' level (having achieved a GCSE Grade A at 14), Louis is currently working for his GCSE in Drama and English, and his Grade VIII violin exam. He attends a weekly Shakespeare performance group and sings in the English National Opera's children's chorus.

Lilly, at nine, plays the piano, attends singing lessons and writes her own songs. She recently won a prize from the National Trust after throwing a fund-raising Yorkshire tea party for 23 friends, baking five different types of Yorkshire cakes, and raising £50 for the Yorkshire Coastline appeal. She also sings with the English National Opera.

Home-based educators bring in expertise from where they can, and find no shortage of people willing to help, says Leslie. She runs the Otherwise Club for home-educated children of all ages up to about 16, which meets every Thursday. Pottery and drama, felt-making, country dancing, and a talk on owls are just a few of the things they've been up to recently.

Leslie also runs a Duke of Edinburgh award scheme on Tuesdays for the over 12s. Their current range of activities includes volunteer work with local learning-disabled youngsters, canoeing expeditions, go-karting evenings, and workshops in mediation and conflict resolution.

For the home-educated 6-to-11s there's a weekly history group where they're currently learning about the ancient Egyptians – through crafts, dressing up as mummies, and visits to museums rather than deskbound study.

Lilly also attends a science group run by a top scientist who happens to live locally, and a 'mother and daughter' reading group which Leslie runs once a month. On top of this there are one-off visits, and talks or workshops taking in anything from church history to a mobile planetarium.

Leslie is fortunate in having an income which, although modest, means she can afford not to go out to work. She's immensely happy in her role as a home educator. But her positive experience has made her critical, not merely about how we educate our children, but the whole way we as a society relate to them.

"People say to me 'How can you stand being at home all the time with your kids?' I love being with my kids. Children only get on to you if they don't get good attention for some of the time. Home-educated children are involved in what's going on, they don't need to be noisy and demanding.

"When children come home from school, and parents from work, everyone's tired and stressed out. I've had people say to me that by the end of the summer holidays they actually feel they're just beginning to relax and get to know their children."

Leslie is also critical of the way conventional education segregates pupils. "Children in home-based education have the world on which to model themselves – not a very small internal isolated group of 30 kids they might spend 12 years with. They're out all the time doing all sorts of things, seeing all sorts of people."

But can the experience of home education adequately prepare people for the harsh realities of life in an intensely competitive world? – "We place so much emphasis on academic work," says Leslie, "but we're not all going to be academics. In a world where things are changing all the time, what people need is research skills, and the confidence to know who they are.

"People say, 'Life is hard out there and you've got to prepare them for it'. But if you're going to send someone out to a country that's starving, you don't starve them first – you build them up."

Leslie is doing PhD research on home-based education and its effect on parents, with the Open University. She will be leading a discussion on *'Is there a role for the teacher in creative education?'* organised by the London Forum of the OU's Creativity in Education Community, at Kings Cross Conference Centre in London on January 12 at 5.30 pm. .

More information

HEAS, PO Box 68, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6AN; tel. 01707 371854; Education Otherwise, PO Box 7420, London N9 8SG; tel. 0891 518303. The Creativity in Education Community is a national network, based at the OU, of teachers, academics, parents, researchers, home educators and others interested in exploring alternative theories of education and creativity. It is in the process of establishing a series of regional forums; the London Forum is the first of these and meets monthly. More information about the activities of the Creativity in Education Community is available on the Internet at *http://soe.open.ac.uk/SIG/creativity*. For details of London Forum meetings contact Mike Leibling on 0171 328 3746

When you're home, but not alone

THE 1944 EDUCATION ACT expects the parent(s) of every child of compulsory school age to 'cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise'.

A growing number of parents in the UK are choosing the 'otherwise' option and educating their children at home. No-one knows exactly how many, for the simple reason that parents who choose not to send their children to school at the age of five have no legal duty to inform the local authority. In America, where it is also increasingly popular, , it is estimated that up to 1.6 million children are now home-educated.

Jane Lowe is an advisor for the Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS). She has been involved in home education for the past ten years and has seen a steady rise in the number of enquiries she receives. It now stands at about 200 a month.

"There is a huge diversity of people opting for home education but they fall basically into two groups – those who are forced into it by circumstances, and those who are drawn to it for philosophical reasons.

"Bullying at school is very high on the list of reasons and so is school phobia, which children may develop for various reasons. And some parents are simply dissatisfied with the standard of education the schools provide.

"Then there are those who take a positive view of home education as a lifestyle alternative. And there are those who want a form of education that reflects their religious beliefs. One group I've only recently become aware of, for example, is an Amish community in Leicestershire which is educating its children within the community."

If motives vary, so do methods. Some parents adopt a formal 'classroom' approach, perhaps getting together to hire tutors for group lessons. Others choose an unstructured approach, which in extreme cases verges on anarchy. And there are the 'hothousers' who believe in pushing their kids harder than the schools are prepared to do.

But for the parents who need it there is plenty of support. HEAS, a charity to which parents can subscribe, runs an advice line and provides regional lists of its subscribers to promote contact between them.

Subscribers can also get also get reduced-entry rates to places of educational interest such as galleries and museums. HEAS maintains good relations with the formal education system and stresses that it is not 'anti-school'. Another key group is Education Otherwise, a self-help organisation of home educators.

YVONNE COOK

APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF ARTS

Lectureship in European Studies

You will have expertise in some area of European history since the Enlightenment, combined with an interest in the issues of unity, diversity and identity in contemporary Europe. Expertise in a modern European language, preferably German, is essential.

Your primary responsibility will be to take the lead in planning a new distance teaching course focussing on the issues of unity, diversity and identity in Europe which will be at the heart of an interdisciplinary European Studies degree at honours level. You will be based in the History Department where you will be expected to make some contribution to ongoing history and interdisciplinary courses, and to be actively involved in the maintenance of the History Department's RAE 5 rating.

Based in Milton Keynes, this post is available from 1 April 1999. Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa or on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa, according to academic attainment and experience.

Access details for disabled applicants may be obtained from Margaret Marchant on Milton Keynes (01908) 653266.

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Lecturer in Art History

A half-time appointment is available for a period of twelve months to contribute to the research strength of the Department of Art History in the European Renaissance period and to assist in the presentation duties of course teams on two courses: Art, Society and Religion in Siena, Florence and Padua 1280-1400 and Art and its Histories. You should possess a good first degree, a postgraduate qualification in art history or significant research publications and research interests within the European Renaissance period.

Based in Milton Keynes, this post is available from 1 April 1999. Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,665 - £21,815 (pro rata) or on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 (pro rata), according to academic attainment and experience.

Access details for disabled applicants may be obtained from Cathy Playle on Milton Keynes (01908) 652479.

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Lecturer in Philosophy

You will have broadly based areas of competence, sufficient for undergraduate teaching in both standard history of philosophy and twentieth century philosophy at the Anglo-American school. The area of specialisation is open.

You will be required to contribute to the production and maintenance of courses within the Philosophy Department and, more broadly, within the Faculty of Arts; you will also be expected to contribute to the maintenance of the Philosophy Department's research rating. This permanent post, based in Milton Keynes, is available from February 1999.

Appointment will be made on the Lecturer Grade A salary scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa, or on the Lecturer Grade B salary scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa, according to academic attainment and experience.

Please contact Miriam Selwyn on Milton Keynes (01908) 652032 for access details for disabled applicants.

Closing date for applications: 15 January 1999.

For the above posts the further particulars and application forms are available from Mrs Jet Lindop, Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. Telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 653370 (this is a 24 hour answering service), e-mail: arts-recruit@open.ac.uk

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING

Research Assistant

(Temporary 2 year post)

We are seeking a Research Assistant to support a small research team in the Department of Computing who are examining how students learn to program. The research is currently focused on the practical programming activities undertaken by students of our new introductory computing course M206, Computing: An Object-Oriented Approach. In the first instance, the successful candidate will help to organise an electronic data gathering exercise and will assist in the creation of software tools written in Smalltalk (a knowledge of Smalltalk is not essential and training would be given).

The post would suit a new graduate looking to establish a background in research. You should have a first degree in Computing or a cognate area, such as cognitive psychology. Some travel (to conferences, for example) may be required.

Study for a higher degree may be possible. Salary scale £15,735 to £17,570 pa.

The post is fixed term for two years. Enquiries about the post should be addressed to Dr Pete Thomas via e-mail: p.g.thomas@open.ac.uk or phone Milton Keynes (01908) 652695.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from the Assistant Secretary, e-mail: h.c.mansell@open.ac.uk Faculty of Mathematics and Computing, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 654161.

Closing date for applications is 29 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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The Open University — BUSINESS SCHOOL — Investor in People — The Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1997

LECTURERS IN MANAGEMENT

The Open University Business School is one of Europe's largest providers of management education, offering Professional Certificate, Diploma and MBA qualifications. More than 25,000 students are taking our courses in the UK, the rest of Europe and in many other countries. New developments include further international programmes, undergraduate-level business studies, specialist master's degrees and new courses in accountancy.

Research is supported by substantial external grants, including from the ESRC, EU, The Design Council, and a wide range of private sector organisations. The School was assessed in the HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise for the first time in 1996 and achieved a 3a rating. Research has subsequently grown substantially. The School gained an 'excellent' rating in the last HEFCE teaching quality assessment, has Investor in People status and gained the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1997.

We are seeking to appoint three permanent Lecturers, who will join one of the School's academic Centres and will contribute to research and to teaching across the School's programmes. We are developing a number of innovative undergraduate programmes in the area of Business Studies and are looking for candidates with relevant expertise to play a major role in these developments. You should have good academic and professional qualifications in management, proven teaching and research capability, the ability to manage projects and programmes, an enthusiastic interest in developing distance learning materials for managers from a wide range of backgrounds, a thorough grasp of current developments in management education and the ability to conduct research.

The posts are on the Lecturer A scale £16,655 - £21,815 pa or the Lecturer B scale £22,726 - £29,048 pa according to qualifications and experience.

To obtain an application package and access details for disabled applicants please contact The School Office, Open University Business School, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 652965, Fax (01908) 655898, e-mail: OUBS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk Please quote reference GUM if seen in the Guardian or THM for THES.

Visit our website at http://oubs.open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Interviews will be held on: 24 February 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/emp/pr.htm

'Open Eye'
The First Thursday Of Every Month.
Keep In Touch

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Professor of Social Care

(Full-time, permanent post based in Milton Keynes)

The School of Health and Social Welfare is seeking to appoint a Professor of Social Care to lead the development of social care and social work education and to play a key role in developing research in this rapidly changing field. You will have an exceptional research and teaching record in a contributory field of social care, together with a higher degree, a professional qualification and/or evidence of systematic contact with the social care field. Evidence of experience in working with professional and vocational awarding bodies, employers and service users will be an advantage.

This is a unique post. Since Health and Social Welfare courses reach out to students across the UK and beyond, the capacity to influence the national education and practice is evident. The School is growing rapidly and in 1999 will have nearly 10,000 part-time students. Our multi-disciplinary and multi-professional focus offers a leading edge in terms of support for inter-professional and inter-agency working. You will work with the Professor of Health Care, Celia Davies, to ensure that the School operates in an innovative way across the health and social care divide.

For an informal discussion, please contact Linda Jones on Milton Keynes (01908) 653695.

Appointment will be on the Professorial salary scale minimum £35,170 pa.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from Sue Staig, School of Health and Social Welfare, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 654235, e-mail: s.staig@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 26 January 1999.

The Open University

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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Time to speak up for summer schools

NOW IS THE TIME for everybody that knows the Open University to speak up for Summer School. One of the most precious parts of OU study is being menaced from all sides. Increasing fees and the recent decision by the Social Science Faculty to drop Summer School from the new foundation course, DD100, which starts in 2000, highlight what is becoming erosion of support for this vital part of the OU experience.

I must declare an interest. I have spent nearly a year of my life tutoring at Summer School and I would not have missed it for the world. (Compared to some, however, I am a spring chicken; there are those who are well past this milestone!) Every indication from students is that the overwhelming majority likes and benefits from Summer School.

The present situation, where not all courses have a Summer School, gives those who are not keen to go every year, or who do not like to go at all, ample opportunity to avoid this experience if it does not suit them.

In any case, I am not telling tales out of school when I say that if somebody is very determined to avoid Summer School, then it is not too difficult to work the rule book to gain excusal.

The sneaking suspicion is that the OU is getting lukewarm over Summer School, not on educational grounds but on financial ones. Denials from men and women in grey suits only increase suspicion: we must all fight to keep them.

I appeal to all students doing Summer School this year (or who have done one recently) to make clear their support. Write letters and fill out those wretched questionnaires. Inundate academics at Walton Hall, safe in their ivory towers, with letters of complaint. Tell the dignitaries at degree ceremonies how much it meant to you.

I have been a teacher all my working life and find that Summer School is some of the most rewarding work that I do. Only teaching in a third world country, where education is very valued, has given me such satisfaction. Education is a peculiar profession, in as much as that the higher up you go, the less teaching you actually do.

..Until you become a Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Head Teacher when you probably do little or none at all!

Despite anything that has appeared in the popular prints, the OU has no plans to phase out residential schools. They are and will continue to be a major part of the Open University experience for many students. Each year some new courses opt for residential schools, and others decide to concentrate on other approaches – as in the case of the new introductory social science course, DD100.

What is true is that the current system of residential schools is being looked at in the light of a number of factors, not the least being an increase in the number of students seeking excusal from attendance. The current review may result in changes – including attendance at some schools becoming optional rather than compulsory. On the other hand the introduction of 'named degrees', from 2000, will in many cases require students to have attended certain residential schools.

Here John Kirkaldy mounts a robust defence of the present system

Even at relatively low levels, you find yourself increasingly working out budgets, moving piles of paper work and filling out forms.

Most of us came into education with a love of our subject and a desire to make it come alive. Summer School rekindles and supports this enthusiasm.

What is so unique about it is the coming together of tutors and students from all over Britain. Every one is different. Nearly all weeks are good and some are vintages.

The truth is that university is often wasted on the young. I spent four years as an undergraduate and postgraduate in the same building as two Nobel prize winners – men who changed the nature of philosophy and economics. It never occurred to me to go to their lectures for the very poor reason that they did not come on my courses' syllabuses.

As a historian, I have grown used to spotty teenagers explaining to me why Napoleon (who after all did conquer most of Europe and change its society forever) got it completely wrong. You also know that the zenith of this individual's initiative is probably getting to the centre of the city on a bus.

What is so exhilarating about Summer School is that here are men and women who know something about life and are more than willing to meet the tutor half way. They want to be there but have given up a valuable week to do so. They have also paid out good money and this puts tutors on their mettle.

I have taught people in all walks of life – from croupiers to army snipers. I have had a student complaining that you cannot get servants and use living rough in a telephone box.

I have taught the famous, such as Connie Booth from *Fawlty Towers*, and some who at the beginning of the week were so shy that they hardly dared speak.

Many years ago I taught a man who could only have been a retired naval captain, who sat next to a wonderful lady, who was one of Britain's first female long-distance truck drivers.

They shared a common love of poetry; the captain was also overwhelmed on meeting a woman who could outswear him!

All the feedback to me is that students really benefit. The chance to study without distractions is welcome and it is no surprise to find that many groups hold reunions and keep in touch – often years after they first met.

I once stood next to a reporter from one of the tabloids at a School party at Bath, while he waited to see if he could dish the dirt on my goings on. He got very bored, listening to the usual chat of philosophers – on life and death, the meaning of existence and why Liverpool usually beat Everton. He made his excuses early and left.

This is not to say that Summer School cannot be improved or that we should be complacent. I deplore the fact that virtually no county now pays for Summer School study. Perhaps we should look at alternatives in some cases for accommodation and facilities. Weekends and day schools have their place but they are not the real thing.

No fee rises above the rate of inflation must be a budget priority. So too must as many avenues for payment for students as is possible. If we water down or loose the whole Summer School experience, then we will have destroyed something of incalculable benefit.

We are sailing... again

THE OPEN University Sailing Club (OUSC) is being re-floated. The relaunch started with the purchase of a new Laser. This will be followed by a refit, including new sails, of the club's Miracle (two/three people). For at least the duration of the refit a Seafly (up to four people) and two sailboards will be loaned to the club.

Another part of the re-launch consists of a new approach to encouraging absolute beginners, of all ages, and rusty older hands to take to the water. (Two members started sailing at the age of 50+ last year.) The club can offer considerable help in introducing new members to our boats followed by free formal instruction up to RYA Level Two, if required. At this level members are deemed to be adequately qualified and experienced to sail without supervision. In support of the re-launch a new web site has been created at *http://sail.open.ac.uk/* .

OUSC members are affiliated to Haversham Sailing Club (HSC), and they have the full use of HSC clubhouse, changing rooms and bar, as well as training and social events.

Members range from genuine novices to a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) qualified instructor. There is no joining fee and other benefits include an initial free membership until March.

Annual membership will be about £35, with family membership for an extra £5. There's also free introduction to sailing, free instruction up to RYA certification and the use of boats and sailboards without charge for 305 days a year.

Non-sailors can also enjoy the walk around the beautiful Haversham Lake, with free camping.

For further details contact Carolyn Baxter at the Faculty of Technology c.n.baxter@open.ac.uk (01908 653837).

IN BRIEF

If you use a graphic calculator, these books could be useful

All you need to know...

At last – all you ever wanted to know about the graphics calculator is revealed in a new series of books published by two OU mathematicians, Alan Graham and Barrie Galpin. The pair used their experience and student feedback from working on the OU's Open Mathematics course to produce the textbooks, which are designed for maths teachers, parents and anyone interested in learning how to get the best from this powerful mathematical tool. The highly-sophisticated calculator is widely used in secondary schools and is regarded as a valuable maths teaching aid.

A+B Books on 01780 444360
b.p.galpin@fineshade.n-net.com

..about 'modern art'

Difficult, strange and even less flattering labels have been applied over the years to 'modern art', and these perceptions can make it a daunting subject to teach. *Investigating Modern Art* is a pack produced by the OU's School of Education with primary and secondary teachers and gallery education officers in mind. Two illustrated books provide an introduction to modern art and the main debates surrounding it, and also look at critical studies and teaching and learning in schools and galleries. Topics such as gender, culture, modernism and post-modernism are well covered, and a sixty-minute video develops some of the issues raised in the two books. There's also a clearly-structured study guide of ideas and activities for the teacher and class.
Contact OU Learning Materials Sales 01908 858793, price £54 inc VAT. Quote reference PD37 with order.

Back to the Business Café

Catch up with the latest business and management thinking on Sunday mornings with the return of the Business Cafe to BBC 2 next month at 7.45 am. The magazine programme will be exploring the latest hot topics, with discussion and news ongoing through its advanced website run by the OU Business School.

Next, Open Medicine?

The Open University could be involved in training doctors in the next century. It is currently looking at working in collaboration with other institutions to develop new models of medical training which would increase access to the profession. The first step was taken in November with a link-up between the OU and the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter, with the aim of developing a proposal to Government for a graduate-entry medical training programme.

Online for just £1

Full internet service provided – uniquely for the OU community – for only £1 a month. Call 0870 6070707 and ask for the Open Eye offer.

Pride on a plate

Show your pride in the OU with a customised OU Alumni Association rear number plate for just £10 plus Vat (£11.75). Order by post or phone (credit card payment accepted).

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday, 7 January 1999

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The future may be bright – but is it pink or blue?

MBA alumni have recently had the opportunity to sharpen their business skills – including a seminar by Meredith Belbin, noted management guru. Simon Newton reports

THEY CAME in quantity. They arrived as "plants", "shapers", and "monitor-evaluators", and left as Blue, Green and Orange workers. There was even a Pink Panther among them.

This was not an audition for the sequel to *Reservoir Dogs* but a recent seminar on effective team-working which was held at Walton Hall for MBA alumni of the OU.

Any manager who has been on an away-day about team-building learns the language of its guru, Dr Meredith Belbin. His seminal work, *Management Teams — Why They Succeed and Fail* (1981), set out the basic team roles needed for a well-designed and effective team and was cited by the *Financial Times* as one of the top 50 business books of all time.

Belbin's team role theory is now a mainstay of management courses. It sets out clearly the case for a team's needing to be a congregation of individuals selected for a purpose, with each member performing to individual behavioural strengths.

He argues that teams need to be deliberately designed with each member contributing a specific role if they are to achieve their goals.

Belbin presented his new thinking about teams with consultant colleague Barry Watson. Arguing for the importance of practical applications of management research, Belbin reflected that research is just heavy bigote until cast into shape by implementation. With examples drawn from their experience as corporate consultants, they ensured their more theoretical claims were followed through and tested by case studies in development and implementation.

Claiming that early hunter-gatherer groups of *homo sapiens* practised a primitive form of his team-work theory, Belbin pointed to the power of speech as the key for evolutionary success. *Homo sapiens* became "Nattering Man/Woman" who dispersed with the mumbling, stumbling Neanderthal.

Size matters but it is the size of the team rather than the size of the individual brain that wins out.

"We need to operate in the size of groups we can comfortably handle," Belbin argued. "There is a constant trade-off between size and efficiency."

Teams are distinctly different from groups. The large unplanned group can create "group-think", the sense of self-censorship which helps suppress deviant viewpoints and gives illusions of superiority.

Good teams are carefully selected, small, with specialised knowledge and rotating leadership. Belbin pointed to the example of sports teams and the role of managers in selecting, training and motivating for success.

"If you had a football team with 11 goalkeepers but they didn't know they were goalkeepers..."

In a working world characterised by uncertainty and supposedly, in Tom Peters' words, thriving on chaos, are there still clear job roles and descriptions? The standard classification for jobs is already redundant.

Already fewer employees have job titles or set roles. Job specifications are breaking down in flatter organisations which lack hierarchy. At the end of the millennium, new working patterns are emerging.

Managers may now brief an appropriately skilled employee who interprets and completes the task and then gives feedback.

For Belbin, words failed. "Words are a great barrier to communication," he claimed.

Recognising that those new patterns of work are now challenging his old team-role classifications Belbin set out a new theory of colour-coded work. Types of work depend on mixes of individual and team work, clarity of task and levels of responsibility and risk.

Using a colourful matrix, Belbin argued that Blue work consisted of typical command and control tasks while Orange work demanded a lot of interaction and high levels of risk and responsibility which was most appropriate form for teams. High risk and high complexity leads to great teamwork.

In his new rainbow working world, Belbin offers White work for tasks needing a blank sheet of paper and completely fresh thinking, Grey work for spin-off jobs done at the margins and Pink Elephants and Pink Panthers for everybody's favourite time-consuming task – "imaginary work."

Meredith Belbin: colour coding at work

Leaving delegates to mull over the new meaning of "in the pink" and "off colour", Belbin and Barry Watson looked briefly at why teams fail. Many teams are wrongly selected on criteria of eligibility, availability and acceptability.

Teams need to be built by combining appropriate skills and not based on seniority. Teams are designed with great care to meet the needs and demands of a specific time-limited project. For Belbin, effective teams consist of carefully colour-coded individuals combining those who demand "Let's get on with it!" with those who suggest "Hold on, this might be wrong". Teams are small, highly-focused communities of individuals working on clear assignments.

For Belbin, the future probably should be orange but it could also have a hint of blue, green, yellow and pink.

Breaking stones, earning a living or building a cathedral

THREE LABOURERS on a building site were asked by a passer-by what they were doing. One said he was breaking stones. Another said he was earning a living. The third said he was building a cathedral.

Almost a hundred OU Business School MBA alumni came together recently to test this anecdote of management guru Peter Drucker and reflect on their own perspectives of the work-place. Gathering at the Prudential Training Centre in Newport Pagnell, this MBA reunion was taking advantage of an intensive updating weekend offered by the business school's alumni association headed by Christine Sargent.

Peter Cook, one of the MBA graduate organisers of the event, had learned from the successful first oversubscribed experimental residential weekend last year: "We knew our MBAs wanted to see how to make the theory walk. It had to include active as well as reflective sessions as colleagues wanted to share their own expertise. It had to be aspirational and we planned it to be a real 'knowledge pool.'"

For Jeremy Mills, who completed his MBA five years ago, this residential session was what he needed — 'This is perfect'.

With colleagues constantly 'borrowing' his MBA course materials from his desk, Richard Bawden found this face-to-face refresher kept up the perceived value of his qualification.

The alumni could choose from a rich mix of workshops and lectures including the latest strategic thinking on human resources, brand management, and knowledge management. Optional seminars included *Reviewing your sources of power, Personality Styles* and *Adverts that Work* and the more esoteric *Organisational Theatre of Creative Action incorporating the Forman Theatre technique developed by the Brazilian theatre practitioner Augustus Boal.*

An information point in the building foyer (described by one MBA as an electronic ouija board) offered more spontaneous skill sessions provided by MBA colleagues.

Using the Drucker quote, Chris Mabey, Head of the Centre for Human Resource and Change Management at the OU Business School, compared management to architecture and first building a vision. Working the metaphor hard, Chris offered insights into why organisations are co-created (like buildings) and how to create new management perspectives ('Make your own solutions').

Yet-to-be published research was shared with the MBA graduates demonstrating that management development really added value in an organisation. Getting beyond the rhetoric, Chris drew on recent research from the Institute of Personnel and Development which found that effective human resource management was perhaps the best predictor of business performance in an organisation.

Leslie de Chernatony, Beneficial Bank Professor of Brand Marketing, enthused about the importance of managing brands and reflected on why they thrive or die. He argued for the need to manage actively the functional, rational and emotional elements of consumer brands. Brands do not necessarily die in the marketplace. The death-rattle can begin inside the organisation. "Brands are dying internally if managers are pulling in different directions."

Leslie's recent experience on a consultancy in Russia showed him brand power at work. "When Russians buy tyres they take the tyre in to the garage and say 'I want a tyre with this number on the side'. Customers go the extra mile to buy the products they really want."

In the west, Levis consistently brand their jeans by identifying them with rebellion. But what does rebellion mean for each generation? Levis try to cover all the bases by employing a young hip agency whose task is to anticipate the cultural and style changes of a generation.

With a robust call to all MBAs – "This is information warfare!" – Professor of Information Management Roland Kaye threw out a challenge to re-think the use of IT within organisations. With IT spend increasing and business productivity going down, Roland argued that the information focus is wrong. "Car drivers spend their time looking out of the windscreen not at the dashboard," he claimed. "Organisations do the reverse!"

It was no longer an issue of organisations experiencing incremental change. The external environment was relentlessly volatile and with "external scanning" a low priority for organisations, "trauma" is becoming the key agent of change. Concluding his lecture with a celebration of the skills of computer hackers and of the virtue of knowing not only your competitor's internal phone directory but also who was building their web-site, Roland argued that all was fair in information warfare.

Of course the answer was frumenty – you knew it all along. But a week into the new year, can you still remember the questions?

The new Mrs Bell facing the cameras for the first time

Discover how well (or otherwise) you did in the OU Christmas Challenge

1 Michael Jones of Selly Oak who spent £100,000 on legal fees fighting the Leylandii trees at the bottom of his garden (January).
2 Lord Irvine, justifying the £59,000 bill of the wallpaper in his state apartments (March).
3 Dana International, Israel's transvestite entry for the 1996 Eurovision Song contest, on complaints from Orthodox Jews that her act was blasphemous (April).
4 Tony Peasley, member of the Coopers Hill Cheese Rolling Committee, held in secret at dawn after it was banned by Glos County Council (May).
5 Netta Reinberg, Octagenarian former captain of Middlesex Ladies on the vote held at Lords in order to force the admission of Women for the first time (Feb).
6 Charles Dickens – Pickwick Papers
7 Louisa M Alcott – Little Women
8 CS Lewis – Chronicles of Narnia
9 Laura Ingalls Wilder – The Little House in the Big Woods
10 Kenneth Graham – Christmas Underground
11 D H Lawrence – The Rainbow
12 F Kilvert – Diary
13 Dylan Thomas – A Child's Christmas in Wales
14 S.Pepys – Diary
15 M Bond – More about Paddington
16 She appeared in court after making a pudding for Eco Warriors at a road development site in Crystal Palace, whose names included Womble, Mouse and King Arthur
17 Incredibly enough his phone was alive with people blaming him for the El Niño weather phenomenon; One man blamed him for his daughter's loss of virginity while stranded in a storm
18 Butch and Sundance; Two Tamworth pigs, who escaped from an abbatoir and enjoyed several days high on the hog before being recaptured and saved by a national newspaper
19 Razorfish. Abnormally low tides left beds of the bivalves exposed to the feet of bathers
20 Sir Anthony Hopkins
21 Martin Bell MP
22 David Hempleman Adams
23 Cumbrian Tales
24 Marc Overmaars
25 Princess Margaret
26 Wassail
27 Frumenty, from which developed Christmas Pudding
28 The Prussians were besieging the city and the Communards were reduced to scavenging in the sewers and Zoo
29 East to West, in honour of the 3 wise men
30 Christmas crackers
31 Mistletoe
32 The Lord of Misrule
33 Speech
34 A full churchyard
35 Wrens
36 Italy
37 Christmas cards
38 Silent Night
39 Wales
40 Kent
41 Haxey, Lincs
42 Dewsbury
43 Christmas Berry or California Holly
44 Blood clotting will be altered (It's a type of haemophilia)
45 Abraham Lincoln
46 Last Christmas – Wham
47 Stop the Cavalry – Jona Lewie
48 Merry Christmas Everybody – Slade
49 A Winters Tale – David Essex
50 Christmas Rapping – The Waltresses
51 Toto
52 Herrings
53 Kingfisher
54 Della Smith
55 Tomato
56 Queue
57 His Signature
58 Hours of Sunshine
59 Bakewell
60 St. Michael
61 Prefab Sprout
62 Primal Scream
63 Spin Doctors
64 Pink Floyd
65 Pinkerton's Assorted Colours
66 Lieutenant Pigeon
67 Judas Priest
68 Edinburgh
69 Cork
70 Barry
71 Dublin
72 Fear of Beards
73 Elvis Presley
74 Thomas Smith
75 Parking meters
76 T.S.Elliott
77 Nine Drummers, drumming
78 1880
79 The Goodies
80 The Lion King
81 Brian & Jimmy Greenhoff
82 Tombstone
83 Lancelot
84 Lacrimae Christie (Tears of Christ)
85 Didier Deschamps
86 Manchester (Trafford Centre)
87 Furby
88 Guernica
89 Angel of the North
90 Static Electricity
91 Rabbit
92 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
93 206 Bones in the Body
94 66 Books in the Bible
95 6 Points on the Star of David
96 40 Numbers in the National Lottery
97 37 Plays by William Shakespeare
98 3 Coins in a Fountain
99 Isle of Man
100 Martin Luther (1530)
101 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, Blitzen
102 Holland
103 USA
104 Switzerland
105 Sweden
106 Finland
107 Indiana
108 Pinats
109 Australia
110 The Glastonbury Thorn
111 A kiss, it's the Latin name for Mistletoe
112 Germany
113 France
114 12
115 Mr Blobby
116 The Angels
117 Michael Caine
118 Hannukah
119 Matthew and Luke
120 An ancient language, common where Jesus lived, and which He probably would have spoken
121 Caesar Augustus
122 Isaac Newton
123 George Washington and his troops
124 William the Conqueror
125 Bach

The OU Christmas Challenge was set by Martin Heighway.

It's wallpaper – but at £59,000, not as most of us know it